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### REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

*History of England, from the Peace of Utrecht to the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle.* By Lord Mahon. In 3 vols. Vol. III. 8vo. pp. 543. London, 1838. Murray.

THIS, the third and last volume of Lord Mahon's work, embraces the period of ten very important and eventful years, viz. from 1738 to 1748. In noticing it, however, we shall pass over the state and manœuvres of political parties from the death of Queen Caroline and the last struggles of the Walpole ministry, and come at once to the memorable *forty-five*, respecting which and the principal actors in that romantic historical drama, the noble author has produced some new and interesting particulars from the collection of documents so often mentioned under the name of "The Stuart Papers." We commence with a portrait of its hero, Prince Charles, then in the twenty-fourth year of his age, endowed by nature with *many* great, and by the imaginations of his partisans with all great qualities.

"Charles Edward Stuart is one of those characters that cannot be portrayed at a single sketch, but have so greatly altered, as to require a new delineation at different periods. View him in his later years, and we behold the ruins of intemperance—as wasted but not as venerable as those of time; we find him in his anticipated age a besotted drunkard, a peevish husband, a tyrannical master,—his understanding debased, and his temper soured. But not such was the Charles Stuart of 1745! Not such was the gallant prince full of youth, of hope, of courage, who, landing with seven men in the wilds of Moirart, could rally a kingdom round his banner, and scatter his foes before him at Preston and at Falkirk! Not such was the gay and courtly host of Holyrood! Not such was he, whose endurance of fatigue and eagerness for battle shone pre-eminent, even amongst Highland chiefs; while fairer critics proclaimed him the most winning in conversation, the most graceful in the dance! Can we think lowly of one who could acquire such unbounded popularity in so few months, and over so noble a nation as the Scots; who could so deeply stamp his image on their hearts that, even thirty or forty years after his departure, his name, as we are told, always awakened the most ardent praises from all who had known him,—the most rugged hearts were seen to melt at his remembrance,—and tears to steal down the furrowed cheeks of the veteran? Let us, then, without denying the faults of his character, or extenuating the degradation of his age, do justice to the lustre of his manhood. The person of Charles—(I begin with this, for the sake of female readers)—was tall and well-formed; his limbs athletic and active. He excelled in all manly exercises, and was inured to every kind of toil, especially long marches on foot, having applied himself to field sports in Italy, and become an excellent walker. His face was strikingly handsome, of a perfect oval and a fair complexion; his eyes light blue; his features high and noble. Contrary to the custom of the time, which prescribed perukes, his own fair hair usually fell in long ringlets on his neck. This goodly person was enhanced by

his graceful manners; frequently condescending to the most familiar kindness, yet always shielded by a regal dignity, he had a peculiar talent to please and to persuade, and never failed to adapt his conversation to the taste or to the station of those whom he addressed. Yet he owed nothing to his education: it had been intrusted to Sir Thomas Sheridan, an Irish Roman Catholic, who has not escaped the suspicion of being in the pay of the British government, and at their instigation betraying his duty as a teacher. I am bound to say that I have found no corroboration of so foul a charge. Sheridan appears to me to have lived and died a man of honour; but history can only acquit him of base perfidy by accusing him of gross neglect. He had certainly left his pupil uninstructed in the most common elements of knowledge. Charles's letters, which I have seen amongst the Stuart Papers, are written in a large, rude, rambling hand, like a schoolboy's. In spelling, they are still more deficient. With him 'humour,' for example, becomes *umer*; the weapon he knew so well how to wield, is a *sord*; and, even his own father's name appears under the alias of *Gems*. Nor are these errors confined to a single language: who—to give another instance from his French—would recognise a hunting-knife in *cooto de chas*? I can, therefore, readily believe that, as Dr. King assures us, he knew very little of the history or constitution of England. But the letters of Charles, while they prove his want of education, no less clearly display his natural powers, great energy of character, and great warmth of heart. Writing confidentially, just before he sailed for Scotland, he says, 'I made my devotions on Pentecost Day, recommending myself particularly to the Almighty on this occasion to guide and direct me, and to continue to me always the same sentiments, which are, rather to suffer any thing than fail in any of my duties.' His young brother, Henry of York, is mentioned with the utmost tenderness; and, though on his return from Scotland he conceived that he had reason to complain of Henry's coldness and reserve, the fault is lightly touched upon, and Charles observes that, whatever may be his brother's want of kindness, it shall never diminish his own. To his father, his tone is both affectionate and dutiful: he frequently acknowledges his goodness; and when, at the outset of his great enterprise in 1745, he entreats a blessing from the pope, surely, the sternest Romanist might forgive him for adding, that he shall think a blessing from his parent more precious and more holy still.\* As to his friends and partisans, Prince Charles has been often accused of not being sufficiently moved by their sufferings, or grateful for their services. Bred up amidst monks and bigots, who seemed far less afraid of his remaining excluded from power,

\* "Letter of June 12, 1745. Appendix. James on his part writes to his son with warm affection, many of his letters beginning with the Italian name of endearment, 'My dearest Carluccio.' But my remarks apply no further than July 1747, when the nomination of Henry as a cardinal—a measure most injurious to the Stuart cause, and carefully concealed to the last moment from his brother, so as to prevent his remonstrances—produced an almost complete estrangement between Charles and his family."

than that on gaining he should use it liberally, he had been taught the highest notions of prerogative and hereditary right. From thence he might infer, that those who served him in Scotland did no more than their duty—were merely fulfilling a plain social obligation, and were not, therefore, entitled to any very especial praise and admiration. Yet, on the other hand, we must remember how prone are all exiles to exaggerate their own desert, to think no rewards sufficient for it, and to complain of neglect, even where none really exists; and moreover that, in point of fact, many passages from Charles's most familiar correspondence might be adduced to shew a watchful and affectionate care for his adherents. As a very young man, he determined that he would sooner submit to personal privation than embarrass his friends by contracting debts.\* On returning from Scotland, he told the French minister, d'Argenson, that he would never ask any thing for himself, but was ready to go down on his knees to obtain favours for his brother exiles. Once, after lamenting some divisions and misconduct amongst his servants, he declares that, nevertheless, an honest man is so highly to be prized that, 'unless your majesty orders me, I should part with them with a sore heart.' Nay more, as it appears to me, this warm feeling of Charles for his unfortunate friends survived almost alone, when, in his decline of life, nearly every other noble quality had been dimmed and defaced from his mind.

"He had some little experience of war (having, when very young, joined the Spanish army at the siege of Gaeta, and distinguished himself on that occasion), and he loved it as the birth-right both of a Sobieski and a Stuart. His quick intelligence, his promptness of decision, and his contempt of danger, are recorded on unquestionable testimony. His talents as a leader probably never rose above the common level; yet, in some cases in Scotland, where he and his more practised officers differed in opinion, it will, I think, appear that they were wrong and he was right. No knight of the olden time could have a loftier sense of honour; indeed he pushed it to such wild extremes, that it often led him into error and misfortune. Thus, he lost the battle of Culloden in a great measure because he disdained to take advantage of the ground, and deemed it more chivalrous to meet the enemy on equal terms. Thus, also, his wilful and froward conduct at the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle proceeded from a false point of honour, which he thought involved in it. At other times, again, this generous spirit may deserve unmingled praise: he could never be persuaded or provoked into adopting any harsh measures of retaliation; his extreme lenity to his prisoners, even to such as had attempted his life, was it seems, a common matter of complaint among his troops; and, even when encouragement had been given to his assassination, and a price put upon his head, he continued most earnestly to urge that in no possible case should 'the elector,' as he called his rival, suffer any personal injury or insult.

\* "I never love to owe, but, on the contrary, I will deprive myself of little conveniences rather than run in debt."—*Letter, June 1, 1744.—Stuart Papers.*

"Another quality of Charles's mind was great firmness of resolution, which pride and sorrow afterwards hardened into sullen obstinacy. He was likewise, at all times, prone to gusts and sallies of anger, when his language became the more peremptory from a haughty consciousness of his adversities. I have found among his papers a note without direction, but no doubt intended for some tardy officer: it contained only these words: 'I order you to execute my orders, or else never to come back.' Such harshness might, probably, turn a wavering adherent to the latter alternative. Thus, also, his public expressions of resentment against the court of France, at different periods, were certainly far more just than politic. There seemed always swelling at his heart a proud determination that no man should dare to use him the worse for his evil fortune, and that he should sacrifice any thing or every thing sooner than his dignity."

Such was Charles in the beginning of his strange career; and we will now borrow a few traits from its close.

"In his youth, Charles, as we have seen, had formed the resolution of marrying only a Protestant princess; however, he remained single during the greater part of his career, and when, in 1754, he was urged by his father to take a wife, he replied, 'The unworthy behaviour of certain ministers, the 10th of December, 1748, has put it out of my power to settle any where without honour or interest being at stake; and were it even possible for me to find a place of abode, I think our family have had sufferings enough, which will always hinder me to marry, so long as in misfortune, for that would only conduce to increase misery, or subject any of the family that should have the spirit of their father to be tied neck and heel, rather than yield to a vile ministry.' Nevertheless, in 1772, at the age of fifty-two, Charles espoused a Roman Catholic, and a girl of twenty, Princess Louisa of Stolberg. This union proved as unhappy as it was ill assorted. Charles treated his young wife with very little kindness. He appears, in fact, to have contracted a disparaging opinion of her sex in general; and I have found, in a paper of his writing about that period, 'As for men, I have studied them closely; and were I to live till fourscore, I could scarcely know them better than now; but as for women, I have thought it useless, they being so much more wicked and impenetrable.\* Ungenerous and ungrateful words! Surely as he wrote them, the image of Flora Macdonald should have risen in his heart and restrained his pen! The Count and Countess of Albany (such was the title they bore) lived together during several years at Florence, a harsh husband and an intriguing wife; until at length, weary of constraint, she eloped with her lover Alferi. Thus left alone in his old age, Charles called to his house his daughter by Miss Walkinshaw, and created her Duchess of Albany, through the last exercise of an expiring prerogative. She was born about 1753, and survived her father only one year. Another consolation of his dotage was a silly regard, and a frequent reference, to the prophecies of Nostradamus, several of which I have found among his papers. Charles afterwards returned to Rome with his daughter. His health had long been declining, and his life more than once despaired of; but in January 1788 he was seized with a paralytic stroke, which deprived him of the use of one half of the body, and he expired on the 30th of the same month.† His funeral rites were per-

formed by his brother, the cardinal, at Frascati. In the vault of that church lie mouldering the remains of what was once a brave and gallant heart; and beneath St. Peter's dome, a stately monument, from the chisel of Canova, has since arisen to the memory of James the Third, Charles the Third, and Henry the Ninth, kings of England—names which an Englishman can scarcely read without a smile or a sigh!"

The account of the space intermediate between the points to which we have referred, or rather, of the affairs which succeeded the first of them in Scotland, is written in a simple and impartial manner, and clearly sets before us that extraordinary enterprise, the romance of which, as Lord Mahon observes,

"Seems singularly heightened, when we find from the secret papers now disclosed, that it was undertaken not only against the British government, but without, and in spite of, the French!"

But instead of again going over a ground to which our attention has been so frequently directed in our Literary Record, we think we shall better consult the taste of our readers, by presenting them with two specimens of the Stuart Correspondence, as found in a very interesting appendix of them in eighty pages.

"The Pretender to Prince Charles.

"Albano, June 6, 1746.

"God knows where or when this will find you, my dearest Carluccio, but still I cannot but write to you in the great anxiety and pain I am in for you, from what the public news mentions from Scotland. I know nothing else; and I doubt not but those accounts are exaggerated, considering from whence they come. But still it is but too plain to see that affairs with you don't go as I could wish. I am, though, still in hopes you may be able to keep your ground in Scotland till you have assistance from France: but if you really cannot maintain yourself in Scotland, do not, for God's sake, drive things too far; but think of your own safety, on which so much depends. Though your enterprise should miscarry, the honour you have gained by it will always stick by you; it will make you be respected, and considered abroad, and will, I think I may answer for it, always engage the French to protect and assist you, and to renew in time another project in your favour; so that you should really have no temptation to pursue rash or desperate measures at this time, for should you do so, it would be the ruin of all, and even a drawback from the honour you have already gained. In fine, my dear child, never separate prudence and courage. Providence has wonderfully assisted you hitherto, and will not abandon you for the time to come. This I firmly hope, while I shall not cease to beseech God to bless and direct you. Adieu, my dearest child, I tenderly embrace you, and am all yours. Once more, God bless you, and protect you. JAMES R."

The next alludes to a matter already noticed in the text,—the adoption of the church by Henry Stuart.

"The Pretender to Prince Charles.

"Albano, June 13, 1747.

"I know not whether you will be surprised, my dearest Carluccio, when I tell you that your brother will be made a cardinal the first day of next month. Naturally speaking, you should have been consulted about a resolution of that

but I have been informed that he really died on the 30th; and that his attendants, dialling the omen, as the anniversary of King Charles's execution, notwithstanding the difference of the Old and New Style, concealed his death during the night, and asserted that he had died at nine o'clock the next morning. This was told me by Cardinal Caccia Platti, at Rome, who had heard it from some of the prince's household."

kind before it had been executed; but, as the duke and I were unalterably determined on the matter, and that we foresaw you might probably not approve of it, we thought it would be shewing you more regard, and that it would be even more agreeable to you, that the thing should be done before your answer could come here, and to have it in your power to say it was done without your knowledge and approbation.

It is very true I did not expect to see the duke here so soon, and that his tenderness and affection for me prompted him to undertake that journey; but, after I had seen him, I soon found that his chief motive for it was to discourse with me fully and freely on the vocation he had long had to embrace an ecclesiastical state, and which he so long concealed from me and kept to himself, with a view, no doubt, of having it in his power of being of some use to you in the late conjunctures. But the case is now altered; and, as I am fully convinced of the sincerity and solidity of his vocation, I should think it a resisting the will of God, and acting directly against my conscience, if I should pretend to constrain him in a matter which so nearly concerns him. The maxims I have bred you up in and have always followed, of not constraining others in matters of religion, did not a little help to determine me on the present occasion, since it would be a monstrous proposition that a king should be a father to his people and a tyrant to his children. After this I will not conceal from you, my dearest Carluccio, that motives of conscience and equity have not alone determined me in this particular; and that, when I seriously consider all that has passed in relation to the duke for some years bygone, had he not had the vocation he has, I should have used my best endeavours, and all arguments, to have induced him to embrace that state. If Providence has made you the elder brother, he is as much my son as you, and my paternal care and affection are equally to be extended to you and him; so that I should have thought I had greatly failed in both towards him, had I not endeavoured, by all means, to secure to him, as much as in me lay, that tranquillity and happiness which I was sensible it was impossible for him to enjoy in any other state. You will understand all that I mean without my enlarging further on this last so disagreeable article; and you cannot, I am sure, complain that I deprive you of any service the duke might have been to you, since you must be sensible that, all things considered, he would have been useless to you remaining in the world. But let us look forward, and not backward. The resolution is taken, and will be executed before your answer to this can come here. If you think proper to say you were ignorant of it, and do not approve it, I shall not take it amiss of you; but, for God's sake, let not a step, which naturally should secure peace and union amongst us for the rest of our days, become a subject of scandal and éclat, which would fall heavier upon you than upon us in our present situation, and which a filial and brotherly conduct in you will easily prevent. Your silence towards your brother, and what you write to me about him since he left Paris, would do you little honour if they were known, and are mortifications your brother did not deserve, but which cannot alter his sentiments towards you. He now writes to you a few lines himself; but I forbid him entering into any particulars, since it would be giving himself and you an useless trouble after all I have said about him here. You must be sensible that, on many occasions, I have had reason to complain of you, and that I have acted for this

\* "Stuart Papers, Orig. in French. See Appendix."

† "The date publicly assigned was the 31st of January."

long while towards you more like a son than a father. But, I can assure you, my dear child, nothing of all that sticks with me, and I forgive you the more sincerely and cordially all the trouble you have given me, that, I am persuaded, it was not your intention to fail towards me, and that I shall have reason to be pleased with you for the time to come, since all I request of you hereafter is your personal love and affection for me and your brother. Those who may have had their own views in endeavouring to remove us from your affairs have compassed their end. We are satisfied, and you remain master; so that I see no bone of contention remaining, nor any possible obstacle to a perfect peace and union amongst us for the future. God bless my dearest Carluccio, whom I tenderly embrace. I am all yours,

"JAMES R."

In conclusion we have only to say that Lord Mahon's style is easy and familiar, and not attempting, except in a few passages, the sustained language or eloquence of history. His narrative is, consequently, agreeable; and, with regard to his views and opinions, we think it impossible for any one to question their candour, fairness, and impartiality. Whatever his lordship's politics are, he has not suffered them to tinge his literary labours. Facsimiles of the manuscript of both James and Charles, and engravings of medals of the last three of the royal race of the Stuarts embellish the volume.

*Treatises on Physiology and Phrenology: from the Seventh Edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica."* By P. M. Roget, M.D. &c. 2 vols. 12mo. Edinburgh, 1838. A. and C. Black.

*An Examination of Phrenology; in Two Lectures at Columbia College.* By T. Sewall, M.D. 12mo. pp. 69. London, 1838. Hodges.

If any man can, after the perusal of these two expositions of phrenology, hold allegiance to that fantastical science, we shall only adhere so far to its jargon as to say he has no organ of causality at all, but in its place an organ which we are surprised to see has no name among their intellectual faculties, viz. the organ of easy belief, or gullibility.\* We do not propose to go over all the smothering argument of Dr. Roget, who, after fully, fairly, and rather too favourably, stating the pretensions of phrenology and its advocates, puts an extinguisher upon both; nor even to follow the more popular reasoning, chiefly founded on anatomical principles, with which the able American lecturer performs the same office. It will be enough for us to cite a few passages which bear most strongly on prominent allegation of the phrenological school. Thus Dr. Roget:—

"We shall refrain from employing the weapons of ridicule against a system so vulnerable to its attacks, and which would have been so capable of affording Swift a new incident for the history of the philosophers of Laputa. The simple exposition of the sandy foundation on which it has been built, of the flimsy materials of which it has been composed, and the loose mode in which they have been put together, will suffice to

\* We have, however, before us a pamphlet (pp. 31), entitled, "Strictures on Anti-Phrenology, in Two Letters to Macvey Napier, Esq. and P. M. Roget, M.D.; being an Exposure of Dr. Roget's Article in the Encyclopædia," in which the writer replies to many of the doctor's statements and arguments, and charges him with reprinting an obsolete paper written about twenty years ago, and long before the best proofs in favour of phrenology had been brought forward. The reverend author treats the doctor very unceremoniously as a very superficial person, and with only a low popular reputation in science.

enable our readers to form their own conclusions as to the soundness and solidity of the edifice. It is, in the first place, obvious, that nothing like direct proof has been given that the presence of any particular part of the brain is essentially necessary to the carrying on of the operations of the mind. The truth is, that there is not a single part of the encephalon which has not, in one case or other, been impaired, destroyed, or found defective, without any apparent change in the sensitive, intellectual, or moral faculties. Haller has given us a copious collection of cases, which bear upon this point; and a singular catalogue has been made by Dr. Ferriar, who, in a paper in the fourth volume of the 'Manchester Transactions,' has selected many of Haller's cases, with considerable additions from other authors. The evidence afforded from this mass of facts, taken conjointly, appears to us to be sufficient to overturn their fundamental proposition. This evidence is not impeached by the feeble attempts of Dr. Spurzheim to evade its force, by a general and vague imputation of inaccuracy against the observers, or by having recourse to the principle of the duplicity of each of the cerebral organs; a principle of very dubious application, on a subject of so much uncertainty as the physiology of the brain. Poor, indeed, must be his resources, when we find him resorting to the following argument, in proof that the brain is the organ of thought, namely, that 'every one feels that he thinks by means of his brain.' We doubt much if any one has naturally that feeling.

It requires, also, but a slight attention to perceive that the very ground-work on which the whole of the subsequent reasoning proceeds, namely, that the different faculties of the mind are exercised respectively by different portions of the brain, is in no respect whatever established. The only arguments in its favour which bear the least plausibility, are derived from analogy. Now, analogy, in reasoning concerning the unknown operations of nature, is, at best, but slippery ground; and when unsupported by any other kind of evidence, cannot lead to certain knowledge, far less constitute the basis of an extensive system. The utility of analogical deductions as to what takes place in one department of nature, from our knowledge of what occurs in another, consists chiefly in their affording indications of what may possibly happen, and thus directing and stimulating our inquiries to the discovery of truth by the legitimate road of observation and experiment. But to assume the existence of any such analogy as equivalent to a positive proof, resulting from the evidence of direct observation, is a gross violation of logic. Yet it is upon assumptions of this kind that Drs. Gall and Spurzheim have ventured to found all the leading propositions of their doctrine."

And again:—

"There is this very remarkable peculiarity in the pursuit of phrenology, that the student is perplexed, not with the difficulties, but with the facilities it affords for explaining every phenomenon. The pliability of its doctrines is exemplified, not merely in the analysis of motives, but, likewise, in the influence which we are allowed to ascribe to the habitual exercise or education of the faculties. The observed magnitudes of the respective organs indicate, not the acquired, but the natural powers, sentiments, and propensities. Now, the character of the individual is the joint result of the force of natural endowments, and of the amount of moral and intellectual cultivation which has been bestowed upon them. But can we ever

know enough of the minute history of the progress of the mind of any individual to enable us to form a correct estimate of the relative power of these two elements, which have, in the formation of each respective faculty, combined their operations? If it be true that an organ may be the seat of a faculty varying in its activity according to the occasions which call it forth, by what physical criterion can we distinguish the active from the dormant conditions of that organ? Unless we can draw, with precision, these distinctions, it is evident that the ground of all cranioscopic observation is cut from under us. It may be, indeed, alleged, that, at all periods of life, and even after the bones of the skull are consolidated, the organs increase or diminish in size according to the exercise or disuse of the faculty associated with it, whether such change may have been brought about by voluntary training, or by the discipline of circumstances; and, certainly, if such were the fact, our experience would repose on a much surer basis than if the form of the organs merely retained the stamp originally impressed upon them by nature. But the hypothesis that the cerebral organs acquire additional size by the exercise of their powers was positively rejected as untenable by Dr. Spurzheim, as we have heard him publicly declare; and it is, we believe, repudiated by the generality of phrenologists. We do not think it difficult to account for the progress which phrenology has made amongst the very numerous class of persons who find in it a source of agreeable occupation, giving exercise to their ingenuity in discovering striking coincidences, and gratifying their self-complacency by inspiring them with the fancy that they are penetrating far into the mystic regions of psychology. For the last twenty or thirty years, various popular writers, and lecturers without number, have been displaying their powers of elocution, exercising their skill in the critical examination of developments, and expounding the doctrines of the new philosophy to wondering and admiring audiences. With all these advantages and appliances to boot, the wonder seems to be, not that phrenology has met with the success of which so much boast is made, but that it has not speedily gained the universal assent; for had it been a real science, like that of chemistry and other branches of natural philosophy, founded on uniform and unquestionable evidence, it could not have failed, by this time, of being generally recognised as true. When we consider that the present age is not one in which there is any lack of credulity, or in which a doctrine is likely to be repudiated on the score of its novelty or its extravagance, we cannot but smile at the complaints of persecution uttered by the votaries of the system of Dr. Gall, and at the attempts they make to set up a parallel between its reception in this country, in these times, and that which, two centuries ago, attended the speculations of Galileo, and subjected him to the tyrannous cognisance of the Inquisition; or to establish an analogy between the dogmas of phrenology and the discoveries of the circulation of the blood, and of the analysis of light, which have immortalised the names of Harvey and of Newton."

From these grave and conclusive remarks, we turn to Dr. Sewall's no less pungent anatomical inquiry. He gives us the phrenological map of the skull, with its thirty-four organs—namely, nine propensities, seventeen sentiments, and eight intellectual demonstrations—with "language" in its eye, instead of its mouth, and "weight" on its nose, instead of its back, and "combativeness" behind its ear,



instead of its fists. He then traces the history of phrenology, and inserts the phrenological definitions of the thirty-four existing organs, these having been increased from thirty-two, and new ones being propounded in addition to this very perfect and complete science; and thus concludes the first lecture:—

"I must call your attention for a moment to another of the doctrines of phrenology, which should be understood, in order fully to appreciate the philosophy of the practical application of the science. I refer to what is called the natural language of the organs. The doctrine is, that the action of the phrenological organs tends to control the attitudes and movements of the body, as well as modify the expressions. That the actions of the body will be in longitudinal direction of the organs. For example: if the action of amativeness be strongly excited, and especially if the organ is large, the head will be thrown backward, because the base of the organ is situated in the lower and back part of the brain; and which is the reason, also, that lovers are prone to bring the back part of their heads in contact, when they approach each other."

This seems to us to be the oddest idea of the salutations of lovers that ever was propounded. Except Punch and Judy, we never witnessed any think like a knocking of the back of their heads together, beyond *dos-à-dos-ing* in a quadrille, where the most respectable distance is kept. Lips are much more likely to approach each other in cases where "amativeness" is strongly developed!

But leaving this fooling, Dr. Sewall proceeds to investigate "how far the science is reconcilable with the anatomical structure and organisation of the brain, the cranium, and others parts concerned."

And he says,— "I adopt this course from two considerations: 1st. From a belief that the anatomy of the parts concerned is the proper and only standard by which to ascertain its truth. 2d. That the metaphysical arguments on the subject, while they have been urged with great power, have too often been evaded, and the public mind has not been enlightened as to the real merits of phrenology by the usual methods of investigation. Even the lash of ridicule, under which it has generally been left to wither, has done but little in arresting its progress or exposing its errors. The ground which phrenologists assume the right to occupy is so extensive, and the outlets for retreat are so numerous, that it is difficult to present an objection to the science, which cannot, upon the common principles of reasoning, be plausibly evaded. A few examples will illustrate the idea which I wish to convey. If an individual has a large head, and his mental manifestations are unusually powerful, the case is brought forward as a proof of the truth of phrenology; but if the manifestations are feeble, it is said that the great size of the head is the result of disease, or that the brain is not well organised, or that other circumstances have exerted its influence in diminishing its power. If a small head is connected with a powerful intellect, it only proves that the brain, though small, is well organised, and acts with uncommon energy. If an individual has a particular propensity strongly marked in his character, and there is no corresponding development of the brain, it is said that the organ has not been thrown out by indulging its desires; but if there is a large development of an organ, and no corresponding propensity, then it is contended that the germ of the propensity is there, but that it has been repressed by education,

or other circumstances; or it is found that some counteracting organ is fully developed which neutralises the first. For example: if the organ of covetousness is large, and the person has no uncommon love of gain, and the organ of benevolence is also large, it is urged that the action of the one neutralises that of the other. I have already mentioned that the temperament also is supposed to perform an important part in modifying the action of the different organs, and for which all due allowance is to be made. When all these fail in furnishing a satisfactory explanation, another method, still more amusing, is sometimes resorted to in relieving phrenology from embarrassment. It may be illustrated by the following facts:— There is a celebrated divine now living in Scotland, equally distinguished for his amiable disposition, his gigantic powers of mind, and the great moral influence which he exerts upon the Christian world. This individual, it is said, has the organ of destructiveness very largely developed, and not having any counteracting organ very large, it is contended by those who are acquainted with the fact, that he manifests his inherent disposition to murder, by his mighty efforts to destroy vice and break down systems of error. In this way he gratifies his propensity to shed blood. By a recent examination of the skull of the celebrated infidel, Voltaire, it is found that he had the organ of veneration developed to a very extraordinary degree. For him it is urged, that his veneration for the Deity was so great, his sensibility upon the subject of devotion so exquisite, that he became shocked and disgusted with the irreverence of even the most devout Christians, and that out of pure respect and veneration for the Deity, he attempted to exterminate the Christian religion from the earth. Other explanations, as much at variance with truth and common sense, are resorted to in carrying out the system."

The lecturer goes on to inquire:—

"1. How far phrenology is sustained by the structure and organisation of the brain? 2. How far facts justify the opinion that there is an established relation between the volume of the brain and the powers of the mind? 3. How far it is possible to ascertain the volume of the brain in the living subject, by measurement or observation? 4. How far it is possible to ascertain the relative degree of development of the different parts of the brain, by the examination of the living head?"

Among other things, he observes on the first point:—

"The fact of the existence of the horizontal membrane, called the tentorium, separating the superior from the inferior part of the brain, as well as the arrangement of the lateral ventricles, the corpus callosum, the fornix, and other parts, clearly show the absurdity of the idea of organs as described by phrenologists. The notion, then, of the division of the brain into phrenological organs, is entirely hypothetical; is not sustained by dissection; and is utterly inconsistent with its whole formation. These facts are perfectly well known, and are universally admitted by all anatomists."

On the second question, he says:—

"It is proper to inquire whether, in speaking of the volume of the brain, its absolute or relative size is to be understood. If the former, then men of small stature must rank as inferior in intellectual power to men of large size; and phrenology has also to contend with the fact, that the whale, the elephant, and several other animals of the lower order, have a larger brain than man, while their intellect is inferior. If

the relative size of the brain be intended, then it is necessary to know with what it is to be compared; whether with the dimensions of the face, the size and length of the neck, with the size of the spinal marrow, the cerebral nerves, or with the volume of the whole body. Upon this point, phrenologists have not been explicit."

Certainly not, for they have not agreed upon any standard of any sort; and well may Dr. Sewall say:—

"The doctrine, that man owes his intellectual superiority to an excess of brain, derives no support from his comparison with the lower animals; nor does it appear, from observation, that this is the source of the diversity of intellectual capacity which distinguishes individuals of the human species from each other. Professor Warren, of Boston, who has probably enjoyed as great opportunities for dissecting the brains of literary and intellectual men of high grade, and of comparing these with the brains of men in the lower walks of life, as any anatomist of our country, if not of the age, says, as the result of his experience on this subject, that in some instances it appeared that a large brain had been connected with superior mental powers, and that the reverse of this was true in about an equal number. One individual who was most distinguished for the variety and extent of his native talent, says Dr. Warren, had, it was ascertained after death, an uncommonly small brain. I might accumulate testimony of this description to an almost unlimited extent, but I will not detain you; and will only observe that, after a careful investigation of the subject, I feel authorised to say, that the experience of eminent anatomists of all times and countries, who have paid attention to the subject, will be found in strict accordance with that of Dr. Warren."

The further inquiries depend so much for illustration on the plates, shewing the brain and cranium, the latter demonstrating cases of comparative thickness and thinness which would defy phrenological conjecture on the volume in the interior. In five of the skulls thus exhibited after nature, he states, that though "Of the same dimensions, of 31·89, something more than one half. These experiments have been extended to a great variety of crania, not here delineated; which confirm the above estimate, and shew that the external dimensions of the skull furnish no indication of the amount of brain. I hold it, then, to be clearly established, that no phrenologist, however experienced, can, by an inspection of the living head, ascertain whether an individual has a skull of one inch, or one-eighth of an inch in thickness, nor whether he has 56·22 ounces of brain in volume, or only 25·33 ounces. With the result of these experiments before you, gentlemen, I leave you to estimate the value of phrenology as a practical science in determining the powers of the human intellect."

We conclude with some general extracts.

"While I admit that there is a difference in the natural capacities of men, I am equally clear that this difference is utterly insignificant, compared with what is impressed upon the mind by circumstances. The influence of climate, occupation, literature, science and the arts, commerce and war, civil and religious institutions, the state of society and the modes of life, all exert a powerful influence upon the human intellect; but, above all, it is the discipline of the mind which gives it power. The intellectual, like the physical functions, acquire strength by use; and he who would attain to eminence, must subject himself to the habit of long continued and close application to study,

to deep and systematic reflection, severe investigation, and accurate analysis. These give a vigour to the mind that nature never imparts. But were it true that there is an established relation between the power of the mind and the volume of the brain, the fact would avail the practical phrenologist nothing, as he has no means of ascertaining the amount of brain in the living subject.

"If the brain be composed of a plurality of organs, as represented by the figured head, and each is the seat of a separate faculty, it necessarily follows that when any one of these organs is injured or destroyed, its faculty must be injured or destroyed also. Yet in all the mutilations of the brain to which man has been subjected for two thousand years, it appears that the records of surgery do not furnish a single well-authenticated case in which the loss of a particular faculty has happened according to the organ on which the injury was inflicted, while the other faculties remained unimpaired. \* \*

"For aught we know, the brain is a unit, and the whole organ concerned in each and every operation of the mind.

"An argument frequently urged in the support of phrenology, is the success with which its principles have been applied to practice in distinguishing character. Dr. Gall himself, we are told, subjected his theory to the most rigid scrutiny, with triumphant success; that, on several occasions, he was enabled to ascertain, by the developments of the head, the precise crime for which multitudes had been convicted and sent to prison. To expose the absurdity of this argument it is only necessary to bring to view the fact, that men of the same natural propensities perpetrate different crimes when placed under different circumstances; and that individuals of different, and even opposite tendencies, commit the same crimes when placed under circumstances which are similar,—nay, that men often perpetrate crimes to which they have no natural propensity, but a deep abhorrence, when strongly operated on by external influences. One man commits murder wantonly, and apparently from the natural cruelty of his disposition; another, that he may inherit a post of honour, or possess himself of fortune; and a third, to conceal another crime which he has already perpetrated. One individual steals from the mere motive of acquisition; another that he may possess the means to gratify his sensual desires, or foster his pride or ambition; while a third is impelled to the crime from extreme poverty. The history of man, in every country and age, will shew that nine-tenths of all the outrages committed are the consequence of defective education, bad example, vicious company, or other circumstances which attend the offender, rather than any inherent propensity to the crime perpetrated. How, preposterous, then, to look to the developments of the head as the measure of a man's virtues and vices, or even to regard his known propensities and dispositions as the true index to the history of his life! Can any one who reflects upon the various circumstances of human life, the incidents which often control man's destinies, the temptations which assail him in different situations, believe, that of the four hundred and seventy culprits examined by Dr. Gall at the fortress of Spandau, upon which so much stress has been laid, each was convicted of the precise crime for which he had the strongest propensity by nature? As well may we suppose that every one dies of the disease to which he has the strongest natural predisposition; that because a man is predisposed to apoplexy, he cannot die of fever, be

buried in the ocean, or be struck down by the lightning of heaven!

"In the language of Napoleon, that great practical philosopher, whose knowledge of human nature was one of his most wonderful attainments, I would say—'Nature does not reveal her secrets by external forms. She hides and does not expose her secrets. To pretend to seize or penetrate human character by so slight an index (as the developments of the head), is the part of a dupe or an impostor. The only way of knowing our fellow-creatures is to see them, to haunt them, to submit them to proof. We must study them long if we wish not to be mistaken; we must judge of them by their actions. This is my opinion, and this has long been my guide.' Beware, gentlemen, of that delusive science, which pretends to detect and mark the countless varieties of human character, and gauge and measure the capacities of the human soul, by a graduated scale of brass; a science which finds an apology for the vices and follies of mankind, in the forms bestowed upon them by a good and all-wise Creator. Let me caution you, also, to distrust its application to yourselves, as well as to others, and not to rely on any native endowments you may thereby be induced to attribute to yourselves, for the stations you may aspire to in life. What rank you shall hold among intellectual men depends on your own exertions. The mind, not less than the body, is susceptible of inconceivable improvement from the culture it receives. It is attention fixed on proper objects of pursuit; perseverance that never wavers from its purpose; application, steady and constant; and not the prominences of the cranium, that constitute the most striking differences among men, and which will enable each of you, not only to attain, but to deserve, the highest distinctions and rewards."

*Hors Viaticæ*: the Author, "Mela Britannicus." 12mo. pp. 411. London, 1838.

Printed for the Author.

THIS is a strange and incongruous volume, with a portion of "*Hors Juveniles*" which did not merit publication, and an odd admixture of other things, in which learning and eccentricity appear to be equally displayed. From the mass on various topics we select almost the only matter which seems worthy of notice.

"*The Alsatian Festivals* were to Rome what Greenwich Fair is to London. In the correspondence of Marcus Aurelius and his tutor, the Stoic Fronto, lately given to the literary world by Angelo Majo, I find two or three entertaining letters descriptive of the fair. 'Can I,' says Fronto to his imperial pupil, 'be ignorant that for four whole days you have given way to sport and relaxation of mind at Alsium? I doubt not that you have gone so well provided for the enjoyment of the fair at your marine villa, but that you should take a nap at midday; but that you should summon Niger to bring books to you; and that, as soon as you feel an inclination for reading, you would polish your mind with Plautus, replenish it with Accius, console it with Luccretius, and inflame it with Ennius; that if he brought you Cicero's speeches, you would listen to them; that you would now and then ramble on the retired beach, and even among the splashy marshes; that you would occasionally embark on a water-party, or listen on a fine day to the clamour of the boatswains and rowers; that you would then promote a powerful perspiration at the baths; and that you would then celebrate a right royal banquet.

..... Tell me then, I beg, my good Marcus, did you go to Alsium to hold a fast? ..... Where is the bow that is always strung? The garden, always turned up by the spade, wants manure; without it, it will no longer produce herbs and vegetables. The soil, to be productive, must sometimes lie fallow. How did your ancestors act, whose energies, profiting by occasional relaxation, augmented the resources of Rome? Your great-grandfather, Trajan, a distinguished warrior, now and then delighted in plays; he was, moreover, a tolerably hard drinker; and yet, through his prowess, he gave occasion to the Roman people to drink to his health at the celebration of his triumphs. We know too that your grandfather, Hadrian, a shrewd and learned man, not merely desirous of ruling, but of perambulating the world, was much devoted both to vocal and instrumental music. He delighted also in excellent cheer. Your own father, so conspicuous for his modesty, temperance, and piety, occasionally visited the wrestlers exercising; he angled now and then; and had buffoons to amuse him. Not to mention Caius Cæsar, the determined enemy of Cleopatra, or Augustus, Livina's husband; can you imagine that Romulus, when he killed so many in close combat, and dedicated his spoils to Jupiter Feretrius, prepared himself for these exploits by a rigorous fast? By Jove, my friend, I cannot think that any one fasting ran away with the Sabine lasses. I say nothing of our venerable Numa, who passed a great part of his life in supervising profane sacrifices, in arranging dinners and suppers, and in establishing fairs. .... What think you of your own Chrysippus, who made himself a borachio daily? And we may infer from the symposia, dialogues, and epistles, of Socrates, that he was a knowing and facetious mortal. You have, then, waged an eternal war against pleasure and relaxation of all kinds. Be it so. But at least do not deprive yourself of necessary rest. .... Do let sleep mark the limits of night from day; do take this my advice, whether you be inclined to treat it lightly or otherwise. I will now amuse you with an allegory, illustrative of this; and with the same gravity wherewith I penned the praises of Smoke and Dust. Why should I not devote the same enthusiasm to praising Sleep? I beg you to imagine two illustrious beings, Vesper and Lucifer, marking out each his respective limits, and that Sleep proposes to be the umpire; both the disputants saying, that they are wronged by his interference. According to tradition, Jupiter, when he created the world, and all that therein is, gave Time, with one blow, into two equal parts; and one of these he invested with light, the other with darkness, consigning business to the first, and repose to the latter. Sleep was not yet born; no mortals then closed their eyes; instead of sleeping they only rested. By degrees, the ever-restless spirits of men devoted equally day and night to toil, but no stated time to repose. Soon after, it is said that Jove, when he had observed that quarrels and recognitions ceased at night, and that night itself put a stop, as yet, however, ill-defined, to human activity, came to the determination of naming one of his two brothers superintendent of night, and the time devoted to repose. Neptune, when summoned, objected his many and heavy maritime concerns, and that if called away by other duties, the waves would overwhelm the whole earth with its mountains—the winds let loose, would extirpate the crops and woods, and would shake all nature to her foundations. Old Pluto pleaded, that he had difficulties enough in keeping close and secure his infernal mansions; that Acheron was

not easily banked up with separating dikes, from the Stygian pools and marshes; that it was necessary for him to watch Cerberus, whose business it was to keep those ghosts at bay that might wish to regain the upper regions, with his triple gaping jaws and triple rows of fangs. Jupiter having put the question of the presidency to the other deities, remarked, that the trouble of watching more or less repays itself; that Juno, for the most part, was busied by night with women in labour; that Minerva, the patroness of the arts and artists, was generally disposed to be vigilant; that Mars often changed the scenes of violence and treachery by night; and that Venus and Bacchus specially patronised those who were night-watchers. After further counsel, Jupiter determines on creating Sleep; he enrols him among the host of heaven, assigns to him the supremacy over night and repose, and consigns to him the keys of the eyes. Jupiter also tempered with his own hands the juices of various herbs, where-with sleep should lull the hearts of mankind. The herbs of security and of pleasure were gathered from the celestial gardens; but from the gardens of Acheron the herb of death was plucked. From this he distilled a small drop, mixing it with the others, about as much in quantity as the tear that falls from a hypocrite's eye. 'Sprinkle this,' he said, 'over the eyelids of men; all who have had their eyelids moistened therewith will fall down, and remain immovable; but never fear, for they will still live, and presently rise, when they shall have awaked.' Jupiter moreover affixed wings to sleep, not like the ankle-pinions of Mercury, but braced, like those of Cupid, to the shoulder. 'You have no business,' cried he to Sleep, 'to rush upon the human eyelids with the noise of a troop of horse, or with the frequent flappings of a pigeon's wings; but you ought to glide smoothly, and win thereto your noiseless way, after the manner of swallows.' Moreover, to the intent that Sleep should be sweeter to man, he provides that pleasant dreams should be frequently his companions; so that one should see in imagination what pleases him most—that the applauder should face the dreaming actor, the dreaming flute-player, and the driving charioteer; that military men should conquer in their visions, and generals triumph in theirs; and that dreams should restore travellers to their homes. And for the most part these dreams are foretokens of the truth.—I am, therefore, of opinion, my dear Marcus, if you have any need of dreams of this nature, that you will court Sleep, at least for so long as may be necessary for you to realise, when awake, your nocturnal visions.' The above is the best and the least mutilated of the letters that passed between Fronto and his illustrious pupil, on the subject of the Alisan Festivals."

*Robertson's Letters on Paraguay.*  
(Fifth notice: conclusion.)

A TOUCH of manners at Santa Fé is in keeping with the bathing in common. Mr. R. says:—

"A short time before we were ready to depart, the governor invited Mr. Postlethwaite and myself to a grand dinner; and many of the fashionables of Santa Fé were asked to meet us. About thirty to forty guests sat down at table, in the large ill-furnished dining-room of the government-house. We had military men, lawyers, a padre or two, doctors and merchants, with several of their cara sposas, and as many of their daughters. Don Francisco Candiotti was a distinguished personage at this *convite* or banquet, and his nephew Aldao

ranked among the merchants. Notwithstanding the general scarcity which prevailed, good things of every kind were placed in abundance on the table. Famines and scarcities keep low company; and never, as far as I have seen, are admitted to the presence of governors, or heads of either states or provinces. Three things very particularly carried away my attention at the dinner:—first, the extremely free nature (to use the very gentlest expression) of the conversation which was adopted by the ladies, young and old: it was such as to make me, with my unsophisticated English feelings about me, blush at every turn, although such modesty whenever it was observed, caused a hearty laugh. The next thing that surprised and pleased me was the great facility which all the gentlemen present possessed in producing improvisatore verses. Almost all the toasts were thus given, and with a readiness, a precision, and often an elegance, which quite astonished me. I found the talent afterwards to be general throughout South America, as it is, I believe, in Italy and Spain. The third South American custom (and this one confounded me), was that of the guests pelting each other at table with *pelotitas*, or bread-balls, of the size of a pea. They threw them off with the middle finger and thumb, with generally unerring aim, and in such prodigious numbers, that the floor was literally invisible in many parts of the room. All at table, without a single exception, mixed in the fun, and with increasing eagerness as it advanced. I have very often since seen the same thing, but never to such an extraordinary extent as at the governor of Santa Fé's table. A great quantity of wine was drunk during the dinner, which, with the dessert and the battle of the *pelotitas*, lasted from three till seven o'clock. All this time the ladies remained in the dining-room. A great deal of what we now term skylarking took place,—romping and other freaks; till at last some of the most excited with wine proceeded to acts of indecorum, which, even in that latitudinarian country, could not be tolerated. We therefore moved to the salon, where an excellent band of military music was placed. Dancing was kept up till twelve o'clock; and that, though just the hour at which our dancing begins, is a very late one for the Santa Féinos at which to close the hilarity of their day."

The following description of the Paraná, which the writer ascended, is picturesque.

"The Paraná is one continued line of beautiful scenery from its source to its mouth. From Santa Fé to Corrientes, the part of it which at this time I traversed, the most striking feature of that scenery is decidedly the islands of the river. They are really innumerable. During the whole of our voyage, I cannot recollect one place where we had the Gran Chaco on one side, and Entreríos or Corrientes on the other, with a clear stream between. All the way up we found islands of every form and size interposing themselves between the two river borders. There is not only a succession of these islands, but they lie abreast of each other; some in long narrow strips, running parallel with two or three others of smaller dimensions, and some commencing opposite the middle of a succeeding island, and terminating opposite the centre of another. Thus we were always hemmed in by an endless and intricate chain of islands and islets; the channel sometimes finding its devious way through their windings, sometimes going to the west, and anon returning to the east side of the river. The islands are diversified, verdant, umbrageous, beautiful. The trees on them are generally

small, but almost all evergreens; the flowering shrubs and wild flowers luxuriate in every corner; while the endless variety of creepers, or more properly of climbers, ascending to the tops of the larger trees, and thence gracefully throwing out their flowers, which remain pendent in the air, contribute greatly to the beauty of their water-girt abodes. I found many varieties, also, of the air-plant, at once the most delicate and fragrant of the floral tribe. Most of the islands are very low, and many of the smaller ones marshy. With very few exceptions, they are inundated during the height of the periodical rise of the river. This of course renders them uninhabitable by man, but they are the abode of all the wild animals and of the various feathered tribes peculiar to the country. The tiger (or ounce), the lion (the puma), the cayman, a great variety of the monkey race, with squirrels, and other small animals, are to be found in abundance in these islands; while all the birds, mentioned in a former letter, common to this country and to Paraguay, every where met my view as we sailed along, and more particularly when the channel wound its way through the clustering islands. When these are laid under water by the swelling of the Paraná, it frequently happens that large portions of the islands get detached from their main body, and float down the river. The thick and strong interlacing of the roots of the vegetable matter thus detached, keeps the whole bed together; so that the *camelotes* (that is the name given to them) descend the stream for many leagues. Sometimes a tiger or lion, not unfrequently two or three, are on these camelotes when they break off from their parent island; and the animals in such cases seem always terror-stricken on their floating habitation. We saw one tiger thus situated, but at a considerable distance. Although we fired at him he did not move, afraid, seemingly, to leave the spot on which he stood fixed. It is a historical fact, that many years ago, such a camelote as I now describe carried three tigers with it down to the vicinity of Montevideo. They entered the town at day-break. A pulpero, or vender of spirits, happened to have opened his door at this early hour, and to be engaged in some business behind his counter which kept him stooping down for some time. On rising up, one of the tigers which had entered, sprang upon him. I do not recollect if his, or any other life was lost, but several people were lacerated before the three tigers were destroyed."

But we must end as we began, with some, though later notices of the famous Dr. Francia, who now mounted to that supreme power of which death alone has so recently deprived him. When Mr. Robertson had obtained leave he (Francia, then consul) invited him to an audience, where, after expressing a desire to cultivate a direct commercial intercourse with England, we read:—

"At this point of his oration the consul rose with great emotion, but evident delight, from his chair, and calling to the sentinel at the door, desired him to order in the serjeant of the guard. On appearance of this person the doctor gave him a significant and peremptory look, and told him emphatically to bring 'that.' The serjeant withdrew, and in less than three minutes returned with four grenadiers at his back, bearing to my astonishment, among them, a large hide package of tobacco of two hundred weight, a bale of Paraguay tea of similar dimensions and exterior, a demi-john of Paraguay spirits, a large loaf of sugar, and several bundles of cigars, tied and ornamented with variegated



fillets. Last of all, came an old negress with some beautiful specimens of embroidered cloth made from Paraguay cotton, and used there by the luxurious as hand-towels and shaving-cloths. I thought this very kind and considerate; for though I could not but wonder at the somewhat barbarian ostentation in the mode of making the present, yet I never doubted that the accumulative native productions, now arranged in order before me, were intended as a parting manifestation of the consul's regard. Judge, then, of my surprise (you will see it cannot bear the name of disappointment), when, after ordering his soldiers and the negress out of the room with a 'vayanse' (begone), he broke forth in the following strain:—"Señor Don Juan, these are but a few specimens of the rich productions of this soil, and of the industry and ingenuity of its inhabitants. I have taken some pains to furnish you with the best samples which the country affords of the different articles in their respective kinds; and for this reason: you are now going to England; you know what a country this is, and what a man I am. You know to what an unlimited extent these productions can be reared in this paradise, I may call it, of the world. Now, without entering upon the discussion, as to whether this continent is ripe for popular institutions (you know, I think it is not), it cannot be denied that, in an old and civilised country like Britain, where these institutions have gradually and practically (not theoretically) superseded forms of government originally feudal, till they have forced themselves upon legislative notice, in a ratio proportioned to the growing education of the majority, they are those best adapted to secure the greatness and stability of a nation, and that England is a great nation, and that its people are knit together as one man, upon all questions of momentous national concern, is undeniable. Now, I desire that as soon as you get to London, you will present yourself to the House of Commons, take with you these samples of the productions of Paraguay; request an audience at the bar; and inform the assembly that you are deputed by Don Gaspar Rodríguez de Francia, consul of the republic of Paraguay, to lay before it these specimens of the rich productions of that country. Tell them I have authorised you to say that I invite England to a political and commercial intercourse with me; and that I am ready and anxious to receive in my capital, and with all the deference due to diplomatic intercourse between civilised states, a minister from the court of St. James's; I also will appoint to that court an envoy of my own. Such a treaty of commerce and political alliance may then be framed, as shall comport at once with the dignity and interests of the great empire of England, and with those of the rising state which I now rule. Paraguay will be the first republic of South America, as Great Britain is already the first of European nations. The alliance seems, therefore, natural; and how beneficial for the European state, you, Señor Don Juan, can fully elucidate and explain." Such were the terms, and almost the words, in which Francia delivered himself of his views and aspirations in reference to an alliance with Great Britain. I stood, as you may imagine, agast at the idea of being appointed a minister plenipotentiary, not to the court of St. James's, but to the House of Commons. I was charged especially not to take a private interview with the head of the executive: 'For,' said Francia, 'I know well how apt great men in England are, unless under the fear of responsibility to

the House of Commons, to treat questions even so important as this, with levity or disregard. Present yourself,' continued he, 'at the bar of the house, and there deliver my message, as of old the ambassadors of independent states delivered theirs to the senate of Rome.' According to the reception which they shall give to you, one of their countrymen, and above the suspicion, therefore, of being a witness in my favour, shall be the reception (*acogimiento*) which I will extend to their ambassador to this republic. Never in my life was I more puzzled how to act, or what to say. To refuse the Quixotic mission, and thus incur at once the consul's displeasure, and draw down upon my own devoted head the ruinous consequences of it, was an alternative too horrible to be thought of. The only other was acquiescence; and to this I came, in spite of the strong sense of the ludicrous which pressed itself upon me, as I drew a picture of myself forcing my way to the bar of the House of Commons; overpowering, with half-a-dozen porters, the Usher of the Black Rod; and delivering, in spite of remonstrance and resistance, at once my hide-bound bales of Paraguay merchandise, and the oration, verbatim, of the first consul. But Assumption was a great distance from St. Stephen's. I therefore bowed assent to Doctor Francia's proposition, and trusted to the chapter of accidents for providing me, when the time should come, with a suitable apology for having been unable to get into the predicament which he had so graciously prepared for me.

"Francia's father, as alleged by himself, was a Frenchman; but generally believed to be a Portuguese, who, having emigrated to Brazil, had gone to the interior and ultimately settled in the Misiones of Paraguay. Here he married a Creole, by whom he had a pretty large family. José Gaspar was his first son, and was born about the year 1758.

"He was (says our author) vindictive, cruel, relentless, from the very commencement of his career." Two or three anecdotes of the earlier part of it will fully illustrate the truth of this assertion. Many years before Francia became a public man, he quarrelled with his father, though I believe the latter was in the wrong. They spoke not, met not for years; at length the father was laid on his death-bed; and before rendering up his great and final account, he earnestly desired to be at peace with his son José Gaspar. This was intimated to the latter, but he refused the proffered reconciliation. The old man's illness was increased by the obduracy of his son, and indeed he shewed a horror of quitting the world without mutual forgiveness taking place. He conceived his soul to be endangered by remaining at enmity with his first-born. Again, a few hours before he breathed his last, he got some of Francia's relatives to go to him, and implore him to receive the dying benediction of his father. He refused: they told him his father believed his soul could not reach heaven unless it departed in peace with his son. Human nature shudders at the final answer which that son returned:—"Then tell my father that I care not if his soul descend to hell." The old man died almost raving, and calling for his son José Gaspar."

Well, he also has completed his earthly career; and we have nothing more to say of him, except that we shall look with anticipations of pleasure to the additional volume relating to him and his country, promised by our very agreeable authors.

\* The newspapers have questioned Francia's death. Where the government is so close, *non nostrum*.—Ed. L. G.

*The Seraphim, and other Poems.* By Elizabeth B. Barrett, author of a Translation of the "Prometheus Bound," &c. 12mo. pp. 360. London, 1838. Saunders and Otley.

ALTHOUGH this volume contains much delightful poetry, still we cannot let it pass without censuring the many antiquated and affected phrases with which it abounds. Our authoress seems to have modelled herself upon the very worst portion of Keats and Tennyson, in labouring for outlandish compound words, picking up obsolete phrases, and accenting every unnecessary syllable. Then we have such expressions as "a low shadowy laughter," "the night is in her hair," "ranks of solemnities," "the silentness," "putting thunder-questions," "mournful as a star," eyes that "gaze most starry kind," &c. &c. Now we object to such expressions as these, a few of them may be looked over, and in many instances the author has struck out several new and beautiful epithets, such as we have never before seen surpassed, but we do think that her coinages are sometimes too mysterious. Besides, she has no need to have recourse to the worst examples of this school of poetry, for she has that within her soul which is far above all forced and false art. Her poetry is of a very high order, and, in numerous instances, will bear comparison with the best portions of Shelley. But she also seems to have caught that wild, dreamy spirit, which too prominently pervades the writings of that author. We know no modern writer in whose works we could point out so many imperfections as in Miss Barrett's: neither do we know one possessing more genuine excellences; there is a feeling and a flow of true poetry in her pages that seem to know no bounds; heart and soul are borne away by her power; she showers down her wealth of song without let or hindrance; and it is only the cold, experienced critic, that will dwell upon what she herself might poetically call her "beautiful errors." We are late in the field with our remarks, but from us they come in sincerity; her works need no praise, all she requires is a little honest censure, to make her one of the bright literary ornaments of the present day. We have only to accompany these observations with the following extract, which needs not a word of commendation.

"My dream is of an island place  
The distant seas are folding;  
And over which, the only watch  
Those trooped stars are holding.  
Those bright still stars! they need not seem  
Brighter or stiller in my dream!

Hills questioning the heavens for light—  
Ravines too deep to scan!  
As if the wild earth mimicked there  
The wilder heart of man:  
Only it shall be greener far  
And gladder than hearts ever are.

More like, perhaps, some mount sublime  
Of starry paradise,  
Disrupted to a hundred hills,  
In falling from the skies  
Bringing within it, all the roots  
Of heavenly trees, and flowers, and fruits.

For saving where yon spectral heights  
Denude their rocky whiteness,  
Or ragged fissures, miser-like,  
Hoard up some fountain brightness—  
(And 'e'en in them—stoop down and hear—  
Leaf sounds with water in your ear!)

Around, above, the plumed trees  
Their gracious shadows throw;  
Through whose clear fruit and blossoming,  
Whether the sun may go,  
The ground beneath he deeply stains,  
As shining through cathedral pines.

But little needs the ground beneath,  
That shining from above her,  
When many Peliades of flowers  
(Not one lost) star her over:  
The rays of their unnumbered hues  
Being refracted by the dews.

Wide-petalled plants, that boldly drink  
 The Amreets of the sky;  
 Shut bells, all heavy with delight,  
 Whose faces earthward lie—  
 I cannot count them: but between,  
 Is room for grass, and mosses green,  
 And rapid brooks, that bear all hues  
 Reflected in disorder;  
 Or, gathering up their silver lengths  
 Beside their winding border,  
 Sleep, haunted through the slumber hidden  
 By illies white as dreams in Eden.  
 Nor think each arched tree with each  
 Too closely interlaces,  
 'T admit of vistas opening broad,  
 And sweet sun-basking places,  
 Upon whose award the antlered deer  
 View their own image long and clear.  
 Unless they fainer would behold  
 That image on the seas,  
 Whence's a way through shelving rocks  
 And over-branching trees,  
 Whose doves from half-closed lids spy  
 The green and purple fish go by.  
 One mateless dove is answering  
 The water every minute,  
 Thinking such music could not be  
 Without his cooing in it!  
 So softly doth earth's beauty round  
 Infuse itself in ocean's sound.

My soul in love bounds forward  
 To meet the bounding waves!  
 Beside them is the home for me,  
 Within the coral caves—  
 And near me two or three may dwell  
 Whom dreams fantastic please as well.  
 High winding caverns! not unclift  
 In all their spary ceilings;  
 Through which may shine the earnest stars  
 In prophet-like revelations;  
 And down their slanted glory, move  
 Scents from the flowers that grow above."

*Narrative of a Voyage from Liverpool to Alexandria, &c. &c., and a Pedestrian Journey to Beirut, Jerusalem, &c. &c. in 1836-7.*  
 By the Rev. N. Burton, LL.D. 12mo.  
 pp. 335. Dublin, 1838. Yates; Curry and Co.; Tims; O'Gorman.

MR. BURTON seems to be a very eccentric person, and his travels are as odd as himself. His descriptions are often ludicrous beyond belief (see page 12) and altogether unquotable; but we copy a few bits to shew that he is not without curiosity.

"An extraordinary female resides at present with the missionaries; she has come from America, and purposes going to Jerusalem; her name is Livermore. She supposes that she is to be one of the witnesses," and the Rev Mr. Wolfe the other, and that they are to be slain in Jerusalem. I did not see her in any of my visits to the missionaries; she confines herself to her room, and I understand since has given them a great deal of trouble: they dismissed her at length, and she has returned to America: her wild speculations have, of course, failed.

"At first I supposed the name of this place was Ballad, but I afterwards learned that Ballad signifies a town; which, by the by, is another instance of the similarity of the Irish to the Orientals; for it is well known that Bally, which is nearly the same, means town in Irish.

"There are fifteen Latin monks in the convent of Nazareth, eight of whom are priests, the rest lay-brothers—the father guardiano is a Spaniard; in the evening there was a procession in honour of Ferdinand, king of Naples; all the altars in the church were visited by the officiating priest, with incense and hymns; I kept close to the extraordinary pillar in the little casa of the Conception, and could think of nothing else. When I retired to my apartment, an humble and pious lay-brother brought me a

\* "Rev. chap. xi. verse 3."

plate of anchovy and onions, made into a salad, and sippets of toast softened with a kind of fasting sauce. My mind was so occupied with what I had seen that I slept but little. Though I had made a small present to the church, yet in the morning I was revolving in my mind whether I should not give four or five piastres to the lay-brother for the poor; though by no means parsimonious, I was hesitating, my heart-strings were beginning to contract like a closing purse; at this time I held in my hand a paper containing seven of those spanglelike five-piastre gold pieces—the insinuation 'spare thyself,' had prevailed, and I was about to put them up; a casual shuffle scattered them on the floor—no one was present—I collected six—the seventh five-piastre piece I never recovered—it was the exact sum I was dubious about giving. Had this trifling incident occurred any where but at Nazareth, it might have passed unheeded, but at Nazareth it needs must be remarkable."

*Jam satis.*

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

*Sketches and Essays.* By W. Hazlitt. Pp. 361. London, 1838. Templeman.

THESE contributions to various periodicals are now, for the first time, collected by the son of the writer, and form an excellent companion to the "Table Talk." They exhibit Hazlitt's well-known talent, causticity and antithetical smartness, on a number of popular subjects.

*Travels in Town.* By the Author of "Random Recollections." &c. 2 vols. 12mo. London, 1838. Saunders and Otley.

ANOTHER work by one of the most indefatigable of penmen, who bids fair to exhaust the great metropolis itself, and all which it inherits, if he does not exhaust the public first. These volumes describe, after the writer's manner, the streets of London, the Park, Tattersall's and the turf, Downing Street, ministers and their offices, the British Museum, newsmen, publishers, the post-office, and religious sects. Where we have dipped we have found, as usual, incorrect statements and lack of information; but the general outside accounts well enough, and a good deal of matter got together which may entertain parties unacquainted with town.

*Physical Geography.* By T. S. Traill, M.D. F.R.S.E. &c. 12mo. pp. 290. Edinburgh, 1838. Black.

THIS able essay, which has appeared in the seventh edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," is, *per se*, a performance which we would warmly recommend to all who desire to obtain a comprehensive view of physical geography, and enable themselves to generalise the knowledge of its great and prominent features; the distribution of land and sea; the arrangement of solid and liquid materials, of which the surface of our globe is composed; its planetary aspects; and the limits assigned to plants, animals, and the different races of man. On all these subjects it is an excellent authority.

*The Elements of Materia Medica. Part I. Containing the General Action and Classification of Medicines, and the Mineral Materia Medica.* By Jonathan Pereira, F.R.S. and L.S. &c. &c. 8vo. pp. 559. London, 1838. Longman and Co.

THIS is an ample and excellent exposition, and, in addition to the common features of such a work, is, in our opinion, much enhanced in value, by its embracing the natural history and chemical properties of the multitude of articles employed in medicine. Altogether, it seems to

us to be a very complete performance, and generally to have consulted the latest authorities; so that the medical student could hardly have a surer or better guide.

*Historical Sketch of the Rise, Progress, and Decline of the Reformation in Poland, and of the Influence and Moral, Literary and Political.* By Count Valerian Krasinski. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. 415. Vol. I. London, 1838. For the Author; Murray; Ridgway; Hatchard; Nisbett; Hamilton and Adams; Wilczewski.

THIS is a work of much religious interest, and traces the events connected with the reformation in Poland from the time of Luther to the death of Sigismund Augustus. The early Slavonian traditions, the labours of John Laski, better known to readers as Alasco, the struggles of the Romish church, the multiplication of sects, and other matters connected with these important changes, are all described in a clear and unexceptionable manner.

*Beauty's Mirror; or a Companion to the Toilet, &c.* Pp. 124. (London, C. and P. Mudie.)—One of those little books which contain a good deal of useful information and advice touching the carriage, complexion, care of the teeth, &c. &c., and which, being consulted, often induce habits of personal attention, essential alike to health and appearance.

*Sketches on a Life of William Wilberforce, by his Sons, &c.* by Thomas Clarkson, M.A. &c. 8vo. pp. 136. (London, Longman and Co.)—This is, and, apparently, a well supported reclamation on the part of Mr. Clarkson, against the honour of originating the question for the abolition of the slave-trade being assigned to Mr. Wilberforce, seeing that it was due to himself. Mr. C. takes the biographers severely to task for the manner in which they speak of and treat him. There is something of the "Shall speak of and treat him" in the controversy; but whether it be granted to Mr. Clarkson that he "engaged Mr. Wilberforce in the cause," or "introduced the cause to him," it seems to us to be alike indifferent to the point that he was distinctly the first in the field.

#### ORIGINAL CORRESPONDENCE.

##### DR. HELFER'S RESEARCHES.

THE following report of Dr. Helfer's most recent discoveries on the Tenasserim Coast will be acceptable at a period when affairs in that quarter attract the public regards:—"I ascended the Attaran River in a south-east direction, until the rapids prevented a further progress. I stretched, then, inland towards the great eastern range; and, after passing twelve days through a never-visited country, I arrived at the Mixeli-Tshaung. Thence I made an excursion to the celebrated pass, 'The Three Pagodas,' leading into Siam and Went; returned from this towards Ye. Owing to the circumstance that the only guide whom I could procure missed the road, we were all placed in great difficulties. We wandered seven days in the wilds, after having exhausted all our provisions, almost on the point of starvation, until we came finally among men,—keeping constantly a westerly direction, and reached Ye, not having seen any human habitation for the space of five weeks. At Ye I stopped, making excursions in the interior towards the east; and afterwards directed my course towards Tavoy, deviating from the only road, either towards the sea-shore, or the high mountains to the east; examined, after this, the Huize basin, and the principal of the eighteen small rivers, which form the Huize bay, and arrived, the 18th of January, at Tavoy. The examination of the neighbourhood of this town was my next occupation, and, after having completed it, I penetrated again towards the east, crossing the triple chain of mountains which separate the high table-lands towards Siam from the alluvial plains near the sea. After twelve days' absence, I was obliged to return to Tavoy by the same pass through



which I arrived there. Hence I intend to continue my exploration to-morrow towards Mergui. The chief discoveries and results of the examination of this part of the provinces are, briefly, the following, respecting—*I. Animal productions.* 1. The number of elephants is so great towards the uninhabited and unclaimed regions of the east, that a considerable quantity of ivory would be procurable if the Burmese could be induced to exert themselves. The little trade which is carried on, is effected by Shan hunters from Cirmic, who come even so far as Tavoy. 2. The number of rhinoceroses is equally considerable; and the trade with their horns is still more lucrative than ivory. It is exported into China, where it is considered an invaluable medicine, and sold at very high prices. 3. A small trade is carried on with the skins of a bird belonging to the genus *Alcedo* (kingfisher), which are also exported into China, and sold very dear. 4. The quantity of wax on the banks of the river is very great, but little collected. Another species of bee forms, instead of wax, a kind of balsamic gum resin, which, when dissolved, yields a substance resembling refined turpentine. A third species of bee builds the entrance to their nest from a substance which yields a fine varnish, and which I suspect to be the same known in trade under the name of Dammer varnish; and which has been hitherto considered a vegetable production.—*II. Vegetable productions.* 1. Timber.—I visited the most extensive teak forests, situated on the banks of the Attaran and its tributaries. They are still rich in this valuable timber. The mode in which they are managed by their temporary occupants, is detrimental; and a general registration, superintendence, protection, and care, for their multiplication, merits the greatest attention of the supreme government to insure a constant supply, and to satisfy the increasing demand, being, till now, the chief source of the present prosperity of Moulmein. The quantity of other very superior timber in these now visited parts of the provinces, is equally unlimited, as in the north; and there are several qualities of wood, perhaps surpassing teak, but not known. There are several kinds of wood applicable to the finer works of carpentry; and the khigin, occurring near Ye, resembles mahogany. 2. I passed through the district, rich in wood oil-trees. The substance which this tree yields (not an oil, but a varnish) is now wasted only for the manufacture of torches, but can be, if refined, a substitute for other costly varnishes. It can be got in the greatest quantity. 3. The common tybee-zee, or black Siamese varnish, is much more abundant here than in Amherst and Ye province. It yields an impenetrable coating upon metal and wood, but is not known beyond the country. Its great cheapness would render it a very good covering for ships, cannons, &c. 4. There are some more trees yielding gum resins, resembling copal, in the southern parts. The thingan tree yields a frankincense resembling the Arabian. A species of dragon-blood is common in the interior. 5. The number of plants yielding catouchou amounts to fifteen. 6. Some species of mangrove-trees, growing in infinite numbers on the sea-shore, contain in their bark an astringent matter, valuable for tanning. 7. Among the dyes, I found two new species of indigo, grown by the natives. The Carcers have also a substitute for Campeachy wood; the Nibe tyco-tree, whose wood yields a durable red colour, in conjunction with chalks, grows spontaneously in the Tavoy district; so also does *Albizia orellana*, yielding yellow, and not uncommon.

*mon. III. Mineral productions.*—1. The country from Ye to Tavoy abounds in iron ores: I marked twenty-two places where it occurs, and where I found good ores fit for working. The best of all, however, is at one hour's distance from Tavoy, where I discovered an entire hill composed of spicular iron ore. Not far from this is a mount protruding above the surface, composed of loadstone or magnetic iron. 2. I also visited the tin districts. Tin is to be got in great abundance over a space of sixty miles in length from Kalee-Aung to Tawibauk. It occurs on the foot of the great range running from north to south on its eastern side, in stream-works yielding pure oxide soil tin of sand corns,\* or larger grains mixed with the *débris* of former ages. Tin is throughout this district disseminated, and the soil contains, in some parts on the surface, seven per cent of oxide. I have been sending a box with iron, and ten specimens, to Mr. James Prinsep, in Calcutta. The iron mines close to Tavoy, and the tin mines, deserve the particular attention of the supreme government. Though I have not yet been so happy as to discover coal, this deficiency seems to be no obstacle to the working of these mines. The above-mentioned iron beds are twenty-four minutes distant from the Tavoy river, which is there accessible to vessels of hundred tons burden. Wood is on both banks in unlimited quantity, and could be brought to the water-side (where the furnaces ought to be established, undoubtedly), at a cheaper rate than coal, if it must be brought from some distance. The tin ores are situated close to small streams, supplying water throughout the year, and which could easily be directed to the place where the tin lies, and where the washing on a large scale would be carried on upon inclined planes. As the tin is to be found on the surface, no complicated mining operation would be required; and as the oxide is perfectly free from other mineral admixtures, no other laborious separation is necessary. In general the metal seems to approach the Banca tin in its quality and occurrence. It seems absolutely necessary that government itself should make the first advances to demonstrate the riches of these provinces, in order to render their resources subservient to its purposes. Their riches are now unknown to the public at large:—by a practical demonstration of their existence, the mercantile and speculative community will become acquainted with them; and, consequently, induced to employ industry and capital in this quarter. There is nobody in the whole province who possesses even a moderate stock of money to employ in any branch; but if government would establish at this instant some iron and tin foundries, there is no doubt that respectable private individuals would soon follow; and the first establishments could then even be profitably sold, if government would find their continuation no longer expedient. From the Burmese population nothing is to be expected for the present; they are too short a time acquainted with European civilisation to appreciate its advantages. Their regeneration will require ages. They are too independent a race, with few wants which are plentifully supplied, naturally indolent, with no inducement to gain money. The transplantation of the industrious Chinese upon this coast would be very beneficial; their increasing emigration would easily direct its course towards these shores, if they could be sure to find employ-

\* This is unintelligible in the MS., which is a copy of the original.

ment and an adequate remuneration. The more I become acquainted with this country, the more I am convinced that no part of the East Indies is so well calculated to become a British colony as those provinces: considering their general fertility, the mass of valuable productions, natural position, numerous island communication, and, above all, the healthiness of the climate:—in this respect they surpass by far the Antilles or the British establishments on the Essequibo, and infinitely more the factories on the west coast of Africa. The sugar-cane thrives freely; also indigo, coffee, and the Malayan species (except nutmegs), and the new experiments with the Sea Island cotton seem very promising. The rice crops are annually equally productive; scarcity or famine is unknown; and if the constitution of Europeans does not bear the rice as a chief nourishment, it is established that wheat and maize grow quite as well. All sorts of cattle (except sheep) augment rapidly, and the strong and docile buffalo is a valuable addition to the implements of agriculture.\*

“(Signed) J. W. HELFER.”

#### ARTS AND SCIENCES.

##### ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

Nov. 26. Mr. W. R. Hamilton in the chair. Members were elected. Read extracts from the following papers: 1. ‘A brief Account of three Chaldee Christians, natives of Tabriz and of Ardis-chai,’ by Professor C. W. Lancizolle, of Berlin, translated from the German by Mr. Hamilton. The object of the author in drawing up this narrative was to make more generally known the details of the visit to the city of Berlin, in August last, by three Chaldee Christians. They had taken this route, having visited also St. Petersburg and Warsaw on their way, to come to England, their avowed purpose being to lay before the British and Foreign Bible Society of London the distressed state of the Christian communities in the Persian province of Azerbaijan and in the vicinity of the Lake of Urmiah. Their names are David Gabriel, fifty years old; Jusuf Johannes, aged thirty; and Gabriel Shabriz, aged twenty-six; the latter called himself a nephew of the bishop of Tabriz. The writer of this account, aided by Prof. Petermann, the orientalist, and Carl Ritter, the geographer, and an interpreter, named Oculi, who spoke Turkish, took great pains to get from these travellers ample details of the state of their country; respecting their own personal situation and prospects; the civil institutions under which they lived; and more especially the state and doctrines of the Christian churches in that part of the East. They had been acquainted with Col. Monteith, who travelled through their country in 1829, and Col. Shiel, in 1837. They were fully competent to give information respecting the relative geographical position of the various towns, villages, &c., in their own country; the oldest had been at, and could give a fair account of, Shiraz and Abú Shehr; the youngest had been in Arabia: they distinctly declared themselves to be Protestants, living in the diocese of the bishop of Selmas, but under the superintendence of the patriarch Mar Simún at Kochannes near Julamerik. Some circumstances served to create in the minds of a few who saw them a suspicion that the tale these Chaldees told was not in all points the true one; but the apparent contradictions, the

\* From the ‘Ceylon Chronicle.’

writer thinks, were of a very trifling nature, and the result on the whole much in their favour. Some particulars of their stay here were mentioned, and that finally they had left London, after a stay of nearly two months, to beg their way home, it is believed *via* Paris and Marseilles.—[The next paper, 'On the Ancient Stade,' by Lieut.-Col. Leake, we for the present postpone.]

#### TEMPERATURE.

An interesting paper was read some time since by M. Toulouzan to the Academy of Marseilles, on the temperature of the month of January last in different parts of Europe. He takes the Alps as a kind of central station, and remarks that, on the southern or south-western slope, in the basin of the Rhône, the frost and cold that occurred after the 6th was marked first by snow falling on the 10th. On the 13th, the Rhône began to carry down large masses of ice; on the 14th, it was blocked up by them firmly at Avignon; and, on the next day, at Arles. This day, which was that of the greatest cold, saw the thermometer fall along the course of the river, at Geneva, to 20 below zero R., 13 below zero F.; Lyons, 15 R., 1 7-10 below zero F.; Valence, 10 R., 9 5-10 F.; Avignon, 8 R., 14 F.; Arles, 7 R., 16 2-10 F.; Marseilles, 5 R., 20 7-10 F. The Rhône was never before remarked to have been frozen over at a lower temperature than 12 R., 5 F. On the western and north-western slope, in the basin of the Loire, the thermometer fell to 7 below zero of Réaumur, 16 2-10 F., on the 9th, and the river began to bring down ice. The cold went on increasing till the 19th, when the thermometer stood as follows along the course of the river; Nantes, 19 1/4 R., 11 1/4 below zero F.; Tours, 15 R., 1 7-10 below zero F.; Bourges, 12 R., 5 F.; Moulins, 9 R., 11 7-10 F.; Le Puy, 7 R., 16 2-10 F. In the basin of the Seine, the advance of the cold was nearly the same as in that of the Loire, and the thermometer gave the following results on the 19th; Havre, 16 R., 4 below zero F.; Paris, 12 R., 5 F.; Melun, 9 R., 11 7-10 F.; Auxerre, 7 R., 16 2-10 F.; being very similar to those obtained on the Loire. At the same time the thermometer in London was at 19 R., 10 below zero F. On the northern slope in the basins of the Rhine, Meuse, and Scheldt, the cold came on rather later. The navigation of the two latter rivers was stopped on the 11th, and the Rhine was blocked up at Manheim, on the 16th. The greatest cold was on the 16th, when the thermometer stood at Middelburg at 19 R., 10 7-10 F.; Antwerp, 16 R., 4 below zero F.; Brussels, 14 R., 1/2 below zero F.; Coblenz, 13 R., 2 7-10 F.; Manheim, 12 R., 5 F.; Strasburg, 9 R., 11 7-10 F.; and Constance, 7 R., 16 2-10 F. On the eastern slope in the basin of the Danube, snow fell so abundantly on the 9th, in Hungary, that it lay more than a yard deep all over the country. Higher up the course of the Danube, however, the snow was replaced by heavy rains, which melted the snow nearer the Alps, and caused floods almost as powerful as those of 1830. These rains, however, seem to have stopped the cold, which did not extend much towards the East. On the west of the Alps a thaw began on the 24th, commencing at the Ocean, and extending with the west wind to the Alps. From these facts it is inferred that the Mediterranean repelled the cold coming from the Alps, but that the ocean did not produce the same effect in this respect as the inland sea; on the contrary, the cold was more intense in England. It should be observed, that the western side of the Alps has been influenced by the

dry cold coming from the north-east, the prevalent winds having been from that quarter. Here, however, they produced opposite effects to what they did in Provence; for, in the former instance, they brought the dry cold of Russia, and, in the latter, they came charged with humidity, and an elevation of temperature from the Alps.

#### LITERARY AND LEARNED. UNIVERSITY INTELLIGENCE.

OXFORD, Nov. 22.—The following degrees were conferred:—

*Doctor in Divinity, Grand Compounder.*—Hon. and very Rev. H. E. J. Howard, Christ Church.

*Masters of Arts.*—Rev. G. Hodson, Magdalen Hall; Rev. J. Byng, Merton College; Rev. A. Bishop, Queen's College; Rev. J. A. Ormerod, Brasenose College; Rev. C. C. Snowden, Worcester College.

*Bachelors of Arts.*—W. P. Ady, Exeter College; G. E. Maunsell, Christ Church; J. R. Crawford, Scholar of Lincoln College; H. Woodyer, Merton College; J. H. Borrer, Brasenose College; W. C. Lake, Scholar, B. C. Brodie, G. R. Moncreiff, C. W. Holbech, Balliol College; R. G. Boodle, R. H. D. Barham, O. Goodrich, Oriel College; H. J. Bigge, University College.

#### ROYAL SOCIETY. (Anniversary.)

Nov. 30. Mr. Baily in the chair.—The Marquess of Northampton was elected President; and Mr. Lubbock, Treasurer; with the exception of a few changes in the Council, the other officers stand as heretofore. The Copley Medal was awarded to Mr. Faraday; the Rumford Medal, to Professor Forbes of Edinburgh, for various papers in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Royal Medals were awarded to Professor Graham for various communications in the "Philosophical Transactions"; and to W. H. Fox Talbot, for several mathematical papers. Substance of the address will be given in our next *Gazette*.

#### SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.

Nov. 29. Mr. Hamilton in the chair.—Sir Thomas Phillips communicated some particulars of the life of Peter Carew, son of Sir William Carew, Knt., who was born in 1514, and died 1575, part of which being read, the remainder was postponed.

#### ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER 17. The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie in the chair.—An extract of a letter to Dr. Royle, from Dr. Falconer, superintendent of the Hon. East India Company's botanical garden at Saharanpore, in latitude 30° north, was read, communicating many interesting facts respecting the growth and successful cultivation of several plants likely to become important articles of commerce, especially that of the tea plant, which was thriving vigorously in two, and had flowered in three, of the nurseries established in the neighbouring hills. In the Saharanpore garden, the Otaheite sugar-cane had succeeded most completely, and was likely to spread over the whole district. The upland Georgia cotton would, undoubtedly, be most successful in the upper provinces, as it ripens its seed before the Bourbon cotton even flowers. The Egyptian cotton also seemed likely to thrive. Experiments were in the course of being made with Peruvian cotton seed. Dr. Falconer mentioned that the Ceylon cinnamon, American annatto, Bombay mangoes, and the Chinese litchoe, were all thriving in the garden, and the three latter yielding fruit abundantly.—Extracts were next read from a letter of Dr. Falconer, dated Cashmere, 26th January last, whither he had been detached from the mission of Sir Alexander Burnes to Caubul. He marched through the Punjab to Lahore and Attock, in the month of July, across the sandy

plains, which he describes as terribly hot from the want of rain. The party crossed the noble Indus at Attock, over a fearful ferry, with considerable danger, their boat having struck on a rock and split, and the river running eight knots an hour. The vegetation along the banks of the Indus, from Attock to Durbund, surprised Dr. Falconer, considering the elevation and difference of latitude, as it was quite that of the characteristic forms of the Deyra Doon, *Grislea tormentosa*, *Rottlera tinctoria*, *Hastingia coccinea*, *Mimosa Catechu*, and species of *Ficus* being met with. The valley of Cashmere, Dr. Falconer describes as presenting several anomalies, and coming up to all that poets had ever said of it, so far as natural beauties were concerned. The serene repose of the valley, itself the very impersonification of fertility, its transparent atmosphere, dark blue sky, and heavenly temperature; every village embosomed in extensive groves, with its rivers and its lakes, surrounded by its magnificent boundary of snowy mountains, presented the ultra perfection of scenic beauty.—A paper was next read, 'On the Yellow Colour of the Barberry,' by Mr. E. Solly. Mr. Solly stated that the root of the common barberry, *Berberis vulgaris*, was used for dyeing leather yellow; and that a cheap and abundant source of the article was desirable. He, therefore, suggested the possibility of obtaining it with advantage from India. After describing the various species of berberis which grow in India, and mentioning many of their localities, he stated that, from some experiments made by him on specimens of barberry root from Ceylon, in the Society's Museum, he was convinced that the Asiatic root would prove an article of considerable value to dyers. He described the colour as being disseminated throughout the whole of the wood, bark, and roots; and suggested that experiments should be made on the relative quantity and colour in each of those parts respectively. Mr. Solly then mentioned that, as the root does not contain more than seventeen per cent of useful colour, it might prove more convenient to import the watery extract instead of the whole root or stem, which plan would diminish the cost of the dye. The extract is well known to the natives of India, being the *horris* or *rusot* of their medical writers; and might, no doubt, be easily prepared in large quantities.—The business of the meeting concluded with some observations by Dr. Royle, 'On the Orchideous Plants which yielded Salep in Northern India.' These he stated to be species of *Eulophia*, *E. campestris* and *E. herbacea*, on the Himalayas, with another plant, without flowers, but which is supposed also to be a *Eulophia*, and has been called *E. vera*. This last the Doctor obtained from the hills near the banks of the Jhilum, in the vicinity of the road from North India to Cashmere. It was brought to him by the plant collectors, as the plant yielding the true salep of commerce of that part of the world; and which sells at a very high price, even at the Hundwar Fair. He considered that its cultivation was a subject well worthy the attention of the natives of the Himalayan provinces.

#### LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

*Monday.*—Entomological, 8 P.M.; British Architects, 8 P.M.; Physical Society, Guy's Hospital, 8 P.M.; Western Literary (half-yearly meeting) 8 P.M.

*Tuesday.*—Linnean, 8 P.M.; Horticultural, 3 P.M.; Electrical, 7 P.M.

*Wednesday.*—Society of Arts, 7 1/2 P.M.; Geological, 8 P.M.; Artists' and Amateurs' Conversation, 8 P.M.

*Thursday.*—Royal Society, 8 1/2 P.M.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 P.M.; Zoological, 3 P.M.

## FINE ARTS.

THE SCOTTISH ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS. THE Queen has been graciously pleased to bestow on the Scottish Academy of Fine Arts established in Edinburgh, in 1826, on the model of the Royal Academy of London, a royal charter of incorporation, under the name and title of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture. At a general meeting of the Academy, held at Edinburgh on Wednesday, the 14th of November, the office-bearers were elected and the council declared for the ensuing year, as follows: viz. William Allan, Esq. President; D. O. Hill, Esq. Secretary; J. F. Williams, Esq. Treasurer; John Syme, Thomas Duncan, Esqrs., Auditors. Council: John Watson Gordon, Thomas Hamilton, James Stevenson, Horatio McCulloch, Kenneth Mackay, George Harvey, Esqrs.

## PATENT ILLUMINATED PRINTING.

MR. CHARLES KNIGHT, whose spirit and activity as a publisher continue unabated, has lately obtained royal letters patent for improvements in the process and the apparatus used in the production of coloured impressions on paper, vellum, parchment, and pasteboard, by surface printing. We have lying before us the first Number of his "Illuminated Prints," containing "The Ptarmigan," "The Portland Vase," and "The Sussex Traffic Hunter;" and the first Number of his "Illuminated Maps," containing maps of the "Land of Canaan during the Lives of the Patriarchs," and "Canaan as divided by Joshua among the Tribes of Israel;" and we are quite charmed with their clear and beautiful effect. The transparent flatness of the different tints exceeds anything of the kind we ever met with; and their harmony proves that they must have been produced under the superintendence of an artist's eye. This is an invention which must soon extensively supersede, in publications such as we have described, the use of the roller-press and the pencil.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Robert Burns composing "The Cotter's Saturday Night." Painted by William Allan, R.A.; Engraved by John Burnett. Hodgson and Graves.

WE are of the opinion of those who think that the world has not yet done justice to Burns. Lamenting, as every one must lament, the irregularities of his life (although, by the by, those irregularities were mainly to be attributed to the kind of *patronage*—God save the mark!—which he suffered), it appears to us to be impossible for any reflecting man to compare the limited and temporary influence of his personal conduct, with the extensive and imperishable lessons of sound morality and practical religion taught in the noble and affecting poem which is here so delightfully illustrated, without acknowledging the mighty debt under which society labours, and must for ever labour, to the Ayrshire ploughman. The print before us, which is intended as a companion to "Sir Walter Scott, in his Study at Abbotsford," by the same able artists, is admirable, both in conception and in execution; but its chief charm is its sentiment. The expression of the countenance is that of perfect abstraction. Most of the portraits which have hitherto appeared have been portraits of Burns the peasant; this is a portrait of Burns the poet. Mr. Burnett, besides his strict adherence to the fine character of the original, has been singularly happy in laying his lines. The drapery, especially, exhibits a rare union of playfulness, force, and

mellowness. "The poet," to quote a portion of the description attached to the print, "is represented meditating in his father's cottage, after the labours of the day; the evening being the time generally chosen for committing to paper the effusions of the Muse while holding the plough, or labouring in the furrowed field. His place of study was the spence or cottage parlour. \* \* \* On the window behind lies his Bible, the pride of the Scottish cottage, as well as of his father's house, and a few books in the background indicate his scanty library, for nature was the great storehouse from which his genius drew the power of extracting beauty from the commonest things, and harmonising in a manner almost miraculous the discordant dialect of Caledonia, while his early habits taught him to infuse moral aspirations and sentiments of independence into most of his productions. The half-open door exhibits the kitchen, on the floor of which are seen 'luggies and goans' (for his was a pastoral land), prepared by his mother and sister to receive the evening milk; above his head hangs his broad westland bonnet, and over the cupboard is seen the hilt of his claymore, which his ancestors drew in the cause of the Stuarts. On the floor lies his constant companion, his favourite collie Luath, the 'gash and faithful' tyke, of his tale of the 'Twa Dogs'; an empty luggie and wooden bowl mark the poet's frugal fare, 'The halesome parritch, chief of Scotia's food.'"

*The Manuscript.* Painted by C. R. Lealie, R.A.; Engraved by W. H. Watt. Ackermann and Co.

OH! the inimitable Tristram Shandy! who does not recollect the passage which has furnished the subject for this most characteristic and entertaining production?

"The wife of the chaise-vamper stepped in, I told you, to take the papillotes from off her hair, &c., in doing which one of them fell upon the ground. I instantly saw it was my own writing. 'O, seigneur!' cried I, 'you have got all my remarks upon your head, madam.' 'J'en suis bien mortifiée,' said she.—'Tenez,' said she—so, without any idea of the nature of my suffering, she took them from her curls, and put them gravely, one by one, into my hat," &c.

The original picture, by Mr. Leslie, came under our notice, and received our hearty commendations, when it was exhibited. It is difficult to conceive any thing more amusing than the contrast between the vexation of the author and the nonchalance of the lady. Mr. Watt's talents, as an engraver, are too well known to render it necessary for us to say more than that the present plate is executed with at least his usual vigour and ability.

## BIOGRAPHY.

JOHN TAYLOR, ESQ.

IT is with sincere regret that we record the death of this venerable and universally respected patriarch of English artists. He died at his house in Cirencester Place, on Wednesday, the 21st of November, in the 99th year of his age. In his youth, Mr. Taylor was the pupil of Hayman, on whom Colman fathered his whimsical tale of "Frank Hayman and the Hare;" and who was celebrated for having decorated Vauxhall with historical pictures, and for having made a number of designs, several of which possess considerable merit, for the *belles-lettres* publications of that period. On leaving Hayman's studio, Mr. Taylor devoted himself principally to portrait-drawings,

in pencil. Although these performances could not boast of the force, and opposition of light and shade, of the drawings of the present day, they were exquisitely finished, and in their effect were as clear and pure as "monumental alabaster." As, however, Mr. Taylor did not obtain for them more than from seven shillings and sixpence to a guinea each, it was not a very lucrative employment. At that time, Mr. Paul Sandby and Mr. John Alexander Gresse (better known among his friends by the appellation of Jack Gresse) were the most fashionable drawing-masters in the metropolis. By the advice, and aided by the introductions of Gresse, Mr. Taylor entered upon the same occupation; and soon finding that it was a more certain and a more profitable one than that in which he had hitherto been engaged, he pursued it for many years; until he at length accumulated a sufficient sum to enable him to retire with comfort. This money he invested in the long annuities, which will expire in 1840; so that the calculation was rather a nice one! Fond of the arts, however, Mr. Taylor continued to paint for his amusement; and, even down to within the last ten or twelve years, several of his productions—chiefly fancy and domestic subjects—were exhibited at Somerset House and at the British Institution. Mr. Taylor was one of the original members, and, we presume, had long been the only surviving member, of the "Incorporated Society of Artists," the precursor of the Royal Academy. His memory, especially (as usual) with reference to the events of his boyhood and youth, was remarkably tenacious. Among other matters, he perfectly recollected having witnessed the execution of the Scots lords on Tower-hill, in 1746; a spectacle, certainly, well calculated to make a permanent impression on any beholder. His mind was abundantly stored with anecdotes of artists of former days; and, could he have been induced to publish a volume of his reminiscences, it would have been invaluable. He had a little collection of curiosities of art; one favourite article of which was a small wooden screw-box, containing three pieces of Indian rubber, each about the size and thickness of a half-crown, for which he had paid six shillings and sixpence; caoutchouc being, at the time of the purchase, very rare, and used only to obliterate lines made by a black lead pencil. He once had, also, an unfinished portrait, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Hayman; but, we believe, he presented it to the Royal Academy. Mr. Taylor's family connections were highly respectable; and his own person, countenance, dress, and manners, constituted a fine specimen of the "old English gentleman." His conversation was always animated and jocose. The writer of this brief notice recollects meeting him some years ago in the New Road, and, after a little lively chat, taking the liberty to ask his precise age. "Why," said Mr. Taylor, his eyes sparkling with fun, "I'm not quite ninety, but I'm what the people on the Stock Exchange would call eighty-nine and seven-eighths." Of late, he had become exceedingly deaf, which, of course, much diminished his capacity for social enjoyments.

W. H. W.

## SKETCHES.

RUSSIA: long ago.

THE following *Letter from Queen Anne's Envoy to Russia* furnishes an interesting picture of the state of that country at the time of its war with the famous Charles XII. of Sweden; and will, we think, be read as a curious document now, when the position of that empire



is so greatly altered, and its relations with our own country so much the subject of discussion. We print it from a copy preserved among the papers of Archdeacon Cox.

*Mr. Whitworth to the Duke of Marlborough.*  
Mosco, 14-25 March, 1705.

I must beg your leave to give you some account of the czar's forces, and their present military establishment, which is quite different from the antient institution.

The Muscovites had formerly no regular troops, but in time of danger every province was summoned to furnish the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, or 30<sup>th</sup> man who were obliged to maintain themselves, and when the expedition was over, were dismissed to their home and ordinary way of living.

The czar's grandfather, Michael Fedozwitz, was the first who raised four regiments of foot-guards, call'd Strelitz; and his father, Alexius Michaelowitz, finding by many heavy losses in his wars with Sweden and Poland how little an unexperienced multitude was to be relied on, added sixteen more, making, together, a body of 20<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> men. In time of peace, the greatest part of them used to reside at Mosco, where a large quarter of the city was assigned for their habitations, and the others were quartered in the several garrisons on the frontiers. This establishment seems to have been made in imitation of the Turkish Janissaries, but after their example, the Strelitz likewise, in a few years, grew too headstrong for their masters, and dangerous to their country, having, in 6 years' time, been guilty of four terrible rebellions, in some of which they massacred a great part of the nobility, plundered their houses, obliged their princes to retire out of the city for their safety, and committed all manner of disorders.

When their last insurrection was pardoned, they all signed a new act of allegiance, obliging themselves and families to the most cruel torments in case they ever should be wanting in their loyalty and respect. However, in the czar's absence, 1698, they raised a new revolt, and would have excluded the czar from his throne had they not happily been suppressed by General Gordon.

After so many notorious acts of treason, it was not thought fit to rely any longer on their promises and repentance, and, therefore, at the czar's return, some thousands of them were brought to deserve punishment, and several were banished to hunt sables in Siberia; others, to dig in the trenches at Asoph; and the miserable rest of this militia, who had not engaged openly in the conspiracy, are now moulder away in Lithuania and on the frontiers of Ingermerland. Their name has been also abolished, their houses in the city pulled down, and scarce any thing remains besides the memory of their crimes and punishment.

To supply the place of these forces, the czar has begun to raise several regiments, and model them after the German fashion, and, by the most probable computation, I have heard all his armies will amount to 100<sup>m</sup> men, besides the Cosacks,—comprehending those that are to act in Lithuania and Liefland, the 6000 in Saxony, and all the garrisons round this wide country, from Astracan, Asoph, and Chievia, to Smolensko, Narva, and Archangel. From this calculation, you will please to observe that all those swarms of Muscovites which usually fill the gazettes, disappear at a nearer view; and tho' this prince, being absolute master of the lives and fortunes of all his subjects, might bring numerous multitudes into the field, as, perhaps, some of his ancestors may have done, yet it is thought he cannot well maintain more regular

troops than are on foot at present; at least when his army was beat at Narva, 1700, he had not above 32<sup>m</sup> men, tho' it was given out by the Russians before the battle, and by the Swedes after, that they were above 100<sup>m</sup>; and, last year, when that city was taken, there was but 12<sup>m</sup> Muscovite foot, and as many dragoons before the place. That which swells their camps so much is a regulation made for allowing every six foot soldiers a waggon, a horse, and a servant, which are of no use in a day of action, and a very great hindrance in their marches; of which they are so sensible that, I believe, the custom is likely to be broke off either this or the next campaign.

I send you a list (No. I.) of all the forces which will be employed this summer in Liefland or Lithuania; hereof 36<sup>m</sup> or 40<sup>m</sup> of the best will take the field, and the rest will be disposed of at Narva and the neighbouring garrisons. They also expect to be joined by General Mazeppa, with 15<sup>m</sup> or 20<sup>m</sup> Cosacks, who have their rendezvous appointed at Chievia. But whether the czar's army will then endeavour to join the King of Poland, as was proposed towards the end of last campaign, or whether they will sit down before Riga, I believe is still uncertain, tho' this last is the more probable. The foot are generally very well exercised; and the officers tell me they cannot enough admire what application the common soldiers use till they have learnt their duty. The two regiments of guards, and that of Ingermerland, are well armed and clothed, tho' most of the rest are but indifferently provided with habits and fire-arms; nor can they be looked upon otherwise than as new levies, several of the regiments not being above two years' standing; tho' this might be, in a great measure, supplied by able officers, but of those I hear they are in great want, especially of generals. All the carpenters and smiths here are now taken up with making *chevaux de frise*, with which every bataillon will be furnished, for they use no pikes. I have already had the honour to acquaint you that, here being no conveniency of procuring any large and strong horses, the czar has no troopers in his army, but had lately formed sixteen regiments of dragoons, which generally consist of the nobility or landed men, several whereof are oblig'd to serve as common soldiers at their own expense. They are mounted on light Tartar horses, and have had several successful encounters with the Swedish parties in Liefland. But it is not thought they will be able to make head, in a set battle, against the Swedish cuirassiers, who have a great advantage by their horses and armour. As to the Cosacks they are somewhat in the nature of the emperor's hussars, and fitter for surprise and skirmishes than any regular action: they are armed some with short rifled guns, and others with bows and arrows, and are oblig'd to appear when and what numbers the czar thinks fit to summon them. The artillery is at present extremely well served; and General Ogilvy tells me that he never saw any nation go better to work with their cannon and mortars than the Russians did last year at Narva. They have new cast 100 brass pieces of cannon, of several calibres; most part whereof is already sent down to Smolensko, with several mortars and great quantities of bombs, grenades, powder, and other ammunition, whereof here is plenty enough, several mines of very good iron having been found of late years; and Circassia furnishes more salt-peter than what they have occasion for. They have also begun to make muskets and pistols, having procured some

gunsmids from the Elector Palatin's country of Bery, who have already prepared arms for several regiments; but the patterns I have seen are very slight: in time this art will be brought to more perfection. The maintaining all these forces does not cost the czar above two-thirds of what other European princes must pay for the same number, since the Russians who have estates are oblig'd to serve at their own charges, or at a very inconsiderable salary; so the only expence is in foreign officers, and in the common foot soldiers. Yet I find there is no small difficulty in raising the sums necessary for the service, which is one reason why most part of the soldiers are not equip'd and armed as they might have been from abroad. For the riches of these countries are no ways answerable to the extent thereof. There are no gold and silver mines yet found out; and their trade, tho' it daily increases, is far from being on a right footing.

To make good this defect, several new impositions have been laid on the merchants since the war, and particularly that of exchanging a quantity of specie dollars against the current coin of the country in which the treasury finds a vast advantage, for they take a specie dollar only at sixty copecks, which, when melted down, they coin into a hundred and twenty. When the czar is with his army, he has not hitherto appeared as general, but only as captain of the bombardiers, and acts according to that post; and his son, the young prince, is a cadet in the Pressressinski Guards, which they probably do with a design of obliging the first nobility to follow their example, and breed themselves up to a knowledge of military affairs; whereas formerly it seems they thought they were born generals as well as lords and princes; but this year there is like to be a dispute between Field Marshall Scheremetoff and Field Marshall Ogilvy, which of them shall have the supreme command, and give the word, if they act together, as did not happen last year, when they had separate armies; for tho' General Scheremetoff has the oldest commission of field-marshal, Monsieur Ogilvy, as the older soldier, is not willing to give place; and, therefore, I believe he will endeavour to persuade the czar to take the chief command upon himself, and let them both act equally under his orders.

On the 10<sup>th</sup>, the czar's vice-admiral, Monsieur Crays, a Hollander, arrived here from Veronitsh; and this evening he will go post to the Lake of Ladoga, where he is to command a little fleet about Petersburg, which, as he tells me, will consist of 12 frigates, from 24 to 30 pieces of cannon, and others of lesser force; 4 brigantines, 4 fire-ships, and 7 gallees.

This gives me occasion to speak one word of the czar's great fleet, which is building at Veronitsh, a place on the River Don, or Tanais, about 400 English miles from this city. There are now 40 or 50 men-of-war almost ready; the greatest carries 80 or 90 guns, but only draws 13 foot water, being flat built. The first trial made with the art of shipping, met with no great success, for the carpenters having made use of green timber, the ships and gallees were ready to fall to pieces in two years' time, without having ever been on any service. But they are now all broke up; and a couple of English builders have used such diligence, that the ships (as the officers tell me) are very strong and well made, and the greatest part will be in a condition of sailing next year down the river; though, I am informed, by a very good hand, that they will be near two year in getting from Veronitsh to Cesoff, because of the short sum-

mers and the several shallows where they must lie by to expect full water; tho' the czar, to remedy this in some measure, is making flood boats, such as they use in Holland, to have the men-of-war over the Pampus: and one of the reasons of his present voyage has been to see how far this experiment will succeed. The going out of the River Tanais into the Black Sea below Asoff, is also very difficult, because of the white sands which lie before the mouth of the river, and when the winds blow from shore are not above 9 foot under water. On which account the czar has built a new city, called Toganroy, on the shoar of the Palus Meotis, about ten miles from Asoff, and a mold will be carried out into the sea for securing the ships in ill weather and winter time. There are now 12 men-of-war and eight gallees in those two harbours, but not above three able seamen on board each ship, the rest being Russians who have not yet learnt their trade. Thus the czar has gone a great way in establishing his sea and land forces, in which, by the strength of his own genius, and almost without any foreign assistance, he has succeeded beyond all expectation, and will one day make his empire very formidable to his neighbours, and especially to the Turks. His majesty has also made a thorough change in the dress of his country: in all this great city, I see no one of consideration appear otherwise than in German clothes. One of the hardest tasks was the persuading them to lay aside their long beards; most of the chief nobility lost theirs in the czar's presence, where there was no room to dispute his orders. The common people, however, were not so easily brought to follow the new fashion, till a tax was laid at the city gates on every one who went in or out with a beard, and this was to be paid as often as they passed, by which means they have at last been brought to conform.

The czar has likewise made several other great reformations to the unspeakable advantage of his country; and though the good work is not yet brought to perfection, it is to be wondered how far his majesty has gone in so short a time, and without any disturbance, which must only be attributed to the happy genius of this prince, who is very curious and diligent, and notwithstanding the disadvantages of his education, has acquired almost an universal knowledge by his own labour and observation.

C. W.

## VARIETIES.

**Open Sesame.**—The society for obtaining free popular access to national monuments and collections likely to improve the people, have received from Thomas S. Higgins, Esq., the president of the Lancaster Natural History Society, intimation of the following resolution passed on the 22d November:—"That the working classes of the town of Lancaster have access to the Museum gratis, every Saturday from twelve to two o'clock." There can be but little doubt that this generous and truly liberal feeling is extending all over the kingdom, and will, ere long, afford opportunities to the population fully equal to any on the Continent. The facilities of collecting and the liberality of individuals are so great, that the only limit will be—the space of apartments.

**Disputed Epitaph.**—The ecclesiastical suit respecting the epitaph on Mr. Woolfrey, in the Isle of Wight, which is now debated with all the polemical talent and bitterness of the newspapers, might be settled out of Court, in the same manner in which a very similar epitaph

was settled in Ireland. As in the present instance, a Romanist inscription, "*Pray for the soul,*" &c. was put upon the tombstone, but by a Popish statuary, *alias* mason, and contrary to the religious principles of his employers, who had carelessly left the epitaph to himself. A dispute ensued—he must either carve another stone altogether, or remove the inscription and chisel out another: a work of some time and labour. At last, however, the affair was compromised, and Paddy agreed for a thirteener to alter the epitaph, so as to make it quite agreeable to the parties. They went to see how he had fulfilled his engagement, and found it *done* by prefixing the word "*Don't,*" so that the inscription read, "*Here lies the body of ———, Don't pray for his soul,*" &c. Would this do at Carisbrooke, and save law expenses? [See Lover's "*Rory O'More,*" *passim.*]

**Dramatic Effects in Music.**—Among the pleasant subjects on which public lectures may be given with a beneficial effect upon the popular mind, we are glad to observe, from the Manchester papers, that, amid all the turmoil and danger of political demonstrations, our old friend, Mr. T. Philipps, has been eminently successful in delivering several discourses, the gist of which is to recommend vocal music as a branch of education which even the poorest children should cultivate and practise. Sure we are, that, as on the Continent, a good moral effect would be produced by such means.

**Sources of the Nile.**—We noticed in our report of the Geographical Society, the preparation for a mission to explore the source of the White Nile. It appears from the last accounts from Egypt, that the pasha, in connexion with a political and military expedition into the upper country, contemplated a scientific exploration of Sennar and the sources of the river; which task he had intrusted to M. Tossizza, the consul-general of Greece, a Turkish officer of his own household, and a Swiss renegade belonging to the arsenal.

**Shakspeare.**—We have long entertained a hope—a hope strengthened by several recent discoveries—that memorials calculated to throw greater light upon the life of our immortal Shakspeare than the long intermediate space of time since his death had afforded, would be found in repositories hitherto unthought of; and we rejoice to see it stated, that an ancient diary of a vicar of Stratford-upon-Avon, with passages that illustrate the domestic habits of the bard, has been discovered in the library of the London Medical Society, by Dr. C. Severn.

**Mrs. Grant of Laggan.**—We have to notice the death of this lady, so distinguished in Scott's literature, at an advanced age. In private, as in public, she was most highly and justly esteemed.

**Useful Instruction.**—The Chevalier Constantine de Pawlikowski lately established a School for Shepherds in Galicia, from which the accounts state that great improvements have accrued in this branch of rural economy.

**West of England Magazine.**—Of this new periodical, Nos. 1 and 3 have been sent to us, and we have pleasure in saying that it is a well-edited miscellany. The topics discussed are chosen with judgment, and the opinions delivered fairly and dispassionately. Relief is given by poetry and some lighter literature. We hope the editors will devote much of their attention locally.—Cornwall, in particular, is rich in scientific matters of national interest.

## LITERARY NOVELTIES.

**Letters of General Wolfe.**—A literary friend informs us that a very interesting collection of papers relating to the Siege of Quebec, in 1759, containing, among others, thirty original Letters of the immortal Wolfe, besides other documents illustrative of that portion of our history, have lately been brought to light; and must, at this time, be full of interest and highly valuable, as they come from undoubted sources, and in every way to be relied upon. We presume, from the notice, that they are accessible (for a consideration) to any party who may require information touching that glorious campaign.

In the Press.

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November.	Thermometer.	Baromet.
Thursday... 22	From 36 to 46	29.18 to 29.36
Friday... 23	34 .. 47	29.40 .. 29.48
Saturday... 24	34½ .. 42	29.49 .. 29.70
Sunday... 25	24 .. 35	29.67 .. 29.94
Monday... 26	24.5 .. 33	29.64 .. 29.77
Tuesday... 27	24 .. 35	29.53 .. 29.33
Wednesday 28	31.5 .. 31	29.08 .. 28.65

Winds, N.E. and S.E.

Except the 25th, and following day, generally cloudy; rain on the 23d, 27th, and 28th. A halo round the moon on the evening of the 25th. On the afternoon of the 26th, from about half-past five to six, the wind blew with great violence from the south, accompanied with rain and hail—lightning in the evening; the barometer remarkably low.

Rain fallen, 1.05 of an inch.

Edmonton.

CHARLES HENRY ADAMS.

Latitude.....51° 37' 32" N.  
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"A. Z." Because we have not seen "Gurney Martineau" and was not aware that it was published.

ERRATUM.—In the last line of our notice of "Oliver Twist," page 741, for "succeeds" read "succeed."

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